

OIL

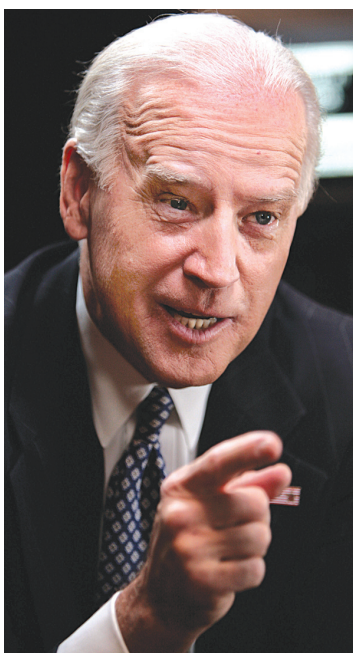
Price of a barrel of petroleum today:

US\$ 46.47

INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

BIDEN TIME



In this photo provided by CBS, Vice President Joe Biden appears on CBS's "Face the Nation" in Wilmington, Del., Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009.

See *INTERNATIONAL NEWS*

SPORTS NEWS

SWEET FUTURE



Shane Mosley celebrates after his technical knock out of Mexico's Antonio Margarito in the ninth round of a WBA welterweight title boxing match on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2009 in Los Angeles.

See *Sports Today*

Radisson celebrates 4th quarter achievements



PALM BEACH – A trio of super-women was recognized for a multitude of achievements at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa as last quarter awards were announced just recently. Maria Chrystina Arias, Pool & Beach, Carmen Alleyne, Concierge,

and Eugenille Perez, Human Resources, received heart-felt praise from colleagues and supervisors as they were singled out at a special luncheon party organized in their honor at the Sunset Grille Restaurant.

Continued on Page 6

Renaissances hosts a Carnival-themed appreciation party

RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL PLAZA – Ariana Santiago Gonzalez, Sales Manager and Magaly Willems, Event Manager, co-hosted a Carnival celebration loaded with fun, amazing food and great music by local Carnival music specialists, NBO.

The dress code of payettes, feathers, crowns and masks, was strictly enforced immediately inspiring honorable members of Renaissance Executive Plus club to have a fantastic time.

Continued on Pages 4 & 5




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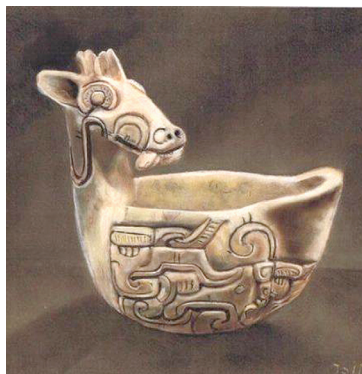


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Dutch artist Cobie Sipkema gives classes in oil finepainting



ORANJESTAD - This past week the atelier of local artist Eefje van der



Straten-van Twillert was host to a series of sold-out classes on finepainting in oil, given by visiting Dutch

artist, Cobie Sipkema - van Gremberghen.



Cobie is from Almelo, in the Netherlands, and regularly shows her work in her home country, where she has wond several prestigious awards. Besides flowers, fruit, seascapes and shells, she also paints icons and in the last years her interests have focused on painting old ornaments from the Chinese culture.

Photos show the successful classes as well as some of Cobie's unique paintings



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Romance Influenced Shopping at T.H. Palm & Company



PALM BEACH – With Valentine's Day just around the corner, many are already asking themselves what they will be getting their "Dushi," their loved ones, for Valentine's Day or Dia di San Valentine.

The 14th of February is celebrated around the world as the traditional day on which lovers express their feelings for each other by sending cards and presenting gifts or offering confectionary's candy and chocolate.



The day associated with Romance with a capital "R," has been on the mind of buyer/owner Jodi Hagedoorn Tobman in the fall of 2008 when she shopped for cupid inspired gifts and shipped them to Aruba to T.H. Palm & Company, adjacent to the Playa Linda Resort in time for the special exchange.

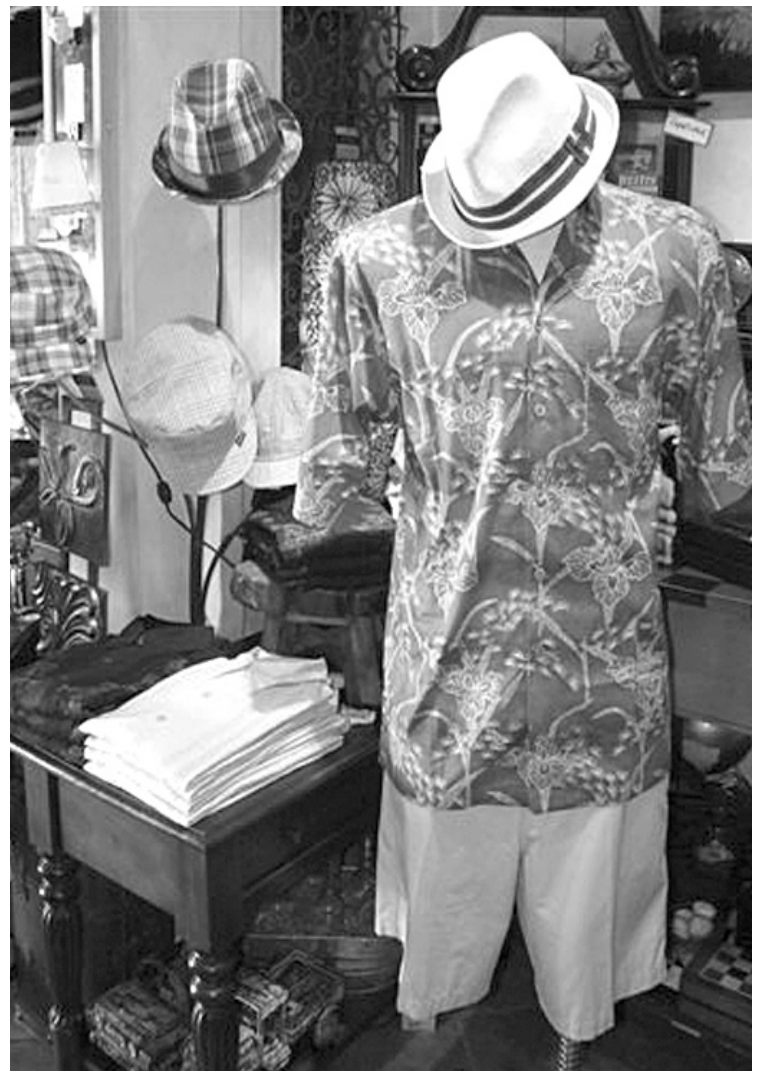
While 85% of Valentine's gifts are purchased by women, men will also find it easy to shop at T.H. Palm & Company, the handbags, martini glasses, and jewelry practically jump off shelves to greet walk-ins of any gender.

And the store's Tikkun Olam menu pledging 2% of the total sale to charity, gives locals and visitors an extra good reason to visit.

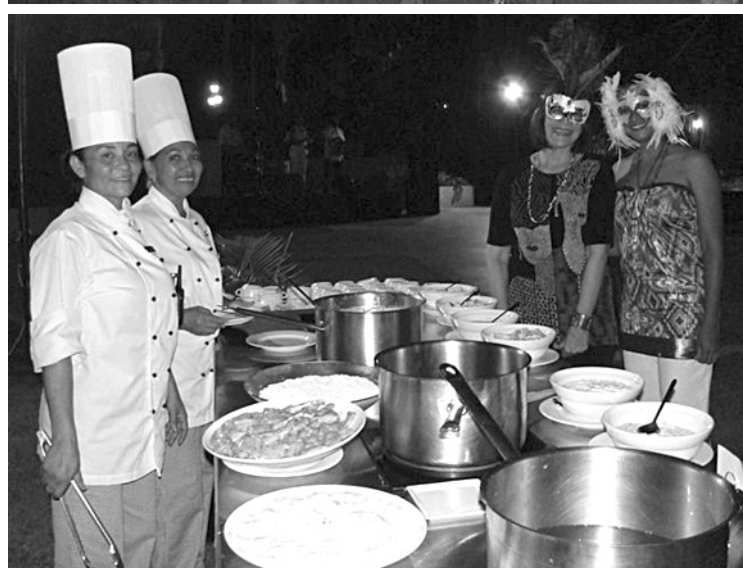
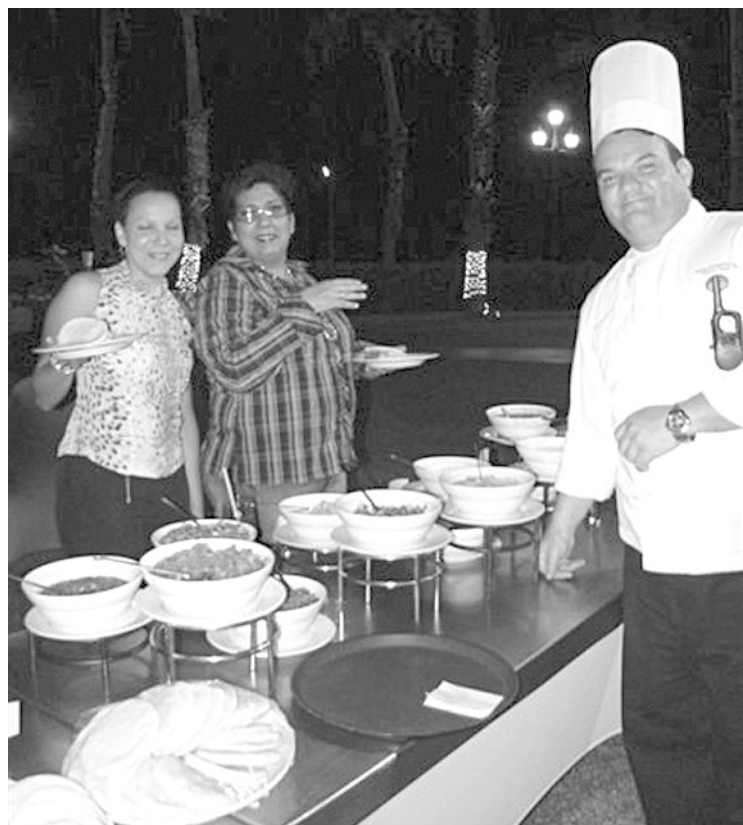
T.H. Palm & Company offers an exceptional, upscale shopping experience for "Fun Island Living". Jodi Tobman Hagedoorn has several other boutiques on the island and she had a lot of fun creating this magnificent jewel of a store which opened its doors in June of 2004.

T.H. Palm & Company is conveniently located in front of the Playa Linda Beach Resort and offers late night shopping and convenient parking. Open daily from 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.,

Fridays open until 11 p.m. Tel.: 586 8909. Email orders @salamanderholdings.com



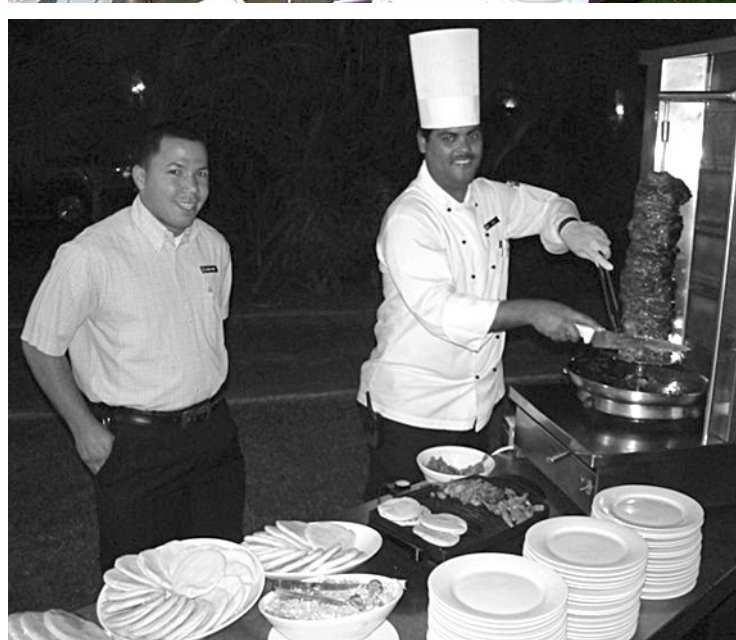
Renaissances hosts a Carnival-themed appreciation party



Continued from Front Page

The buffet spread prepared for the Renaissance local clientele was especially tempting with an interactive hand-rolled sushi station, shaved shoarma on a spit, fresh seafood chowder, golden fried, crispy, frog legs, mini beef pinchos, baby lamb lollipops with garlic confit, grilled chicken and yellow fin tuna brochettes, all meeting with great enthusiasm and approval.

The Renaissance Resorts host the special event each year thanking local businesses for booking room-nights into the Renaissance Marina Tower and the Beach Suites, as well as providing the Renaissance Convention Center, the restaurants and the Spa, with opportunities to serve, says Rufat Geerman, who handles the corporate program. □



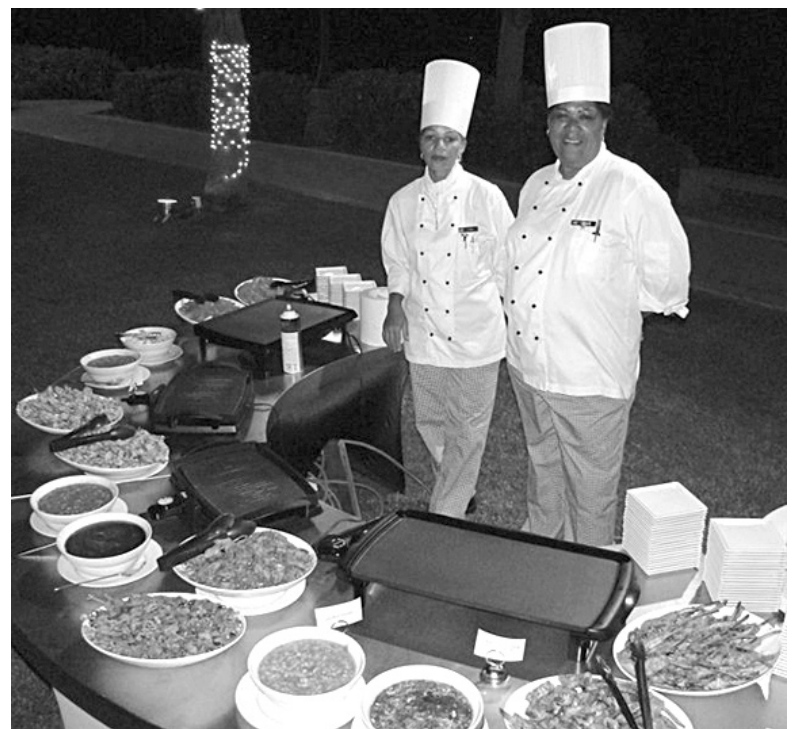


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Read ARUBA TODAY every day

Radisson celebrates 4th quarter achievements



Continued from Front Page
Maria who regards the Radisson's famed beach-front as her own backyard, serving as a pool & beach waitress, was lauded for exceptional service to groups. Carmen who

serves guests in her capacity as Concierge was extolled for the personal touches she delivers to the resort's numerous repeat guests and Eugenille was acclaimed for doubling the support for her

department during a task force assignment which exported her colleague, a top Human Resources executive to San Martin. Maria, Carmen and Eugenille worked hard to pick up any slack and enjoyed a much-deserved moment of glory.

Other finalists included Marvinia Richardson, Rosemary Rivas, Devulo Escalona, Juderka de los Santos, for October, Marina Carti, Ralph Andrews, Fernando Giraldo and Mijoli Sophia for November and Marcel Angela, Winnie mabalay, Angeline Dijkoff and Sylvia Wilson, for December.



Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano delivers authentic Italian flavors

Giorgio's

Eagle Beach -- Italian food lovers needn't walk far. Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano located within walking distance of all low-rise resorts, at the charming Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa, delivers Mamma Mia cuisine. The Manchebo's Executive Chef George Hoek concocted an irresistible menu of Italian

classic specialties with a contemporary feel, served al fresco, on the garden terrace or around the tropical pool. From Anti Pasti to Insalata, Zuppa to Pesce, the menu welcomes diners with familiar recipes, which distinctly demonstrates the talents of Executive Chef George Hoek, a master of flavorful sauces, delicious combinations and delightful presentations. At the heart of the menu, the Pasta section, delivers a nice variety to be shared by two or

enjoyed unabashedly solo -- go ahead, you only live once. Pizza appears on Giorgio's menu for those craving thin crusts and ample toppings, with a selection of classic pies made to order and served with a genuine Italian accent. Angelo, the Maitre D is Italian, naturally. Giorgio's Piatti Principali feature a hit-parade of dishes, which make it very difficult to choose.

Giorgio's Osso Bucco will have you moaning with great satisfaction as you heap the braised veal shanks flavored with herbs and a red wine reduction, escorted by potato gnocchi, onto your fork,



getting lost in the symphonic, robust flavors.

Chef George says General Manager Edgar Roelofs, is an incredibly valuable addition to our team as his food is divine,

and his desserts deserve a special article on their own! To check things out yourselves, call Giorgio's at the Manchebo Beach Resort. It is open for dinner nightly. □

The French Steakhouse Gets a Seasonal Refresh



Eagle Beach -- Locals and visitors have been looking forward to the seasonal menu tweak and recharge of the French Steakhouse, under the expert direction of executive chef George Hoek. The good news reached us just recently. The master has finally revealed his grand retouch, resulting in a packed dining-room every night of the week.

Among appetizers Chef George now lists his popular classics, Escargot a la Pernod and Prosciutto Ham & Melon next to his novel selections, Authentic Aruba Keeshi Yena and Tropical Crab Cakes with pineapple and mango salsa.

The classic menu of the French Steak House received a pepped-up twist, also evident in the salad section featuring a Honey Glazed Salmon Salad and a Hearts of Palm with Roasted Pepper salad.

The menu now boasts more seafood, from fresh fish to the totally sinful and amazingly decadent Caribbean Stuffed Shrimp with Crabmeat and Bacon, which became an instant hit. The tequila and sweet chili glaze, lends the Jumbo shrimp a pure taste of heaven!

The famous South American Churrasco steak, a signature preparation, now shares the limelight with juicy USDA beef specialties such as NY Sirloin and Filet Mignon.

And Chef George definitely took the boring out of chicken with his Jerk Curried Skewers and Lemon Herb Broilers.

Open 7 days a week from 5:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. the French Steakhouse is blessed with the nicest staff and a delightfully renovated dining room with sparkling China, crisp linen, an interesting bread basket, colossal desserts and live jazz on piano with Eddy Samson.

Hungry patrons will appreciate the Ambassador's 5-course menu featuring the run of the menu highlights for just \$34.95 per person.

At the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa, on Eagle beach. □

Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar perfects beach cuisine



Eagle Beach -- Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa recently unveiled its new lunch & cocktail menu, conceived and presented by executive chef George Hoek.

A few months ago, when Chef Hoek joined the Manchebo's culinary team, he promised to introduce a "Sun Splashed" menu to the resort's Café & Beach Bar, thus elevating beach cuisine to an ultimate high.

True to his promise, the chef delivered a contemporary menu, listing many favorite dishes from around the world, deriving inspiration off US, Mexican, Thai, Jamaican, Cuban, Greek and Mediterranean menus, all served with a tropical, Caribbean flair.

For starters to Sun-Sational Salads, to open face sandwiches, Cuban pressed jawbreakers and wraps, Chef Hoek went out of his way to bring novelty to mid-day platters, while not forgetting the classics, which also make an appearance on his menu starring oversize Beef Burgers, Philly Cheese Steak



Sandwiches and Hot Dogs. The Pega Pega tropical & frozen cocktail list, with fresh fruit or ice cream smoothies, daiquiris, coladas and margaritas, leaves nothing out, including Yellow Birds, Sex on the Beach and Mudslides, making a lunch-time brain-freeze, extremely easy to get! The Pega Pega, one of Aruba oldest beach bars is open on fabulous Eagle Beach, with unrivaled views, caring, gracious service, and relaxed atmosphere, from 12 noon to 5 p.m. The bar opens at 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. □



As good as it gets

Moby Dick's shows what seafood is all about

PASEO HERENCIA – Moby Dick's has one mission; to take you to the depths of the blue ocean to taste some of the most exquisite dishes to come from the deep. What a truly beautiful restaurant this is, and what a unique interior to match. The

inside is studded with artwork, amazing glass carvings, and both floors are dominated by gigantic fountains, with water running from ceiling to floor along multicoloured lit fibre optic cables. The stairway is lined by an impressive painting



which runs along the complete wall. The menu promises to be a true seafood lovers dream. Lobsters, fresh fish fillets, shrimps, Moby Dick's has everything on the menu. There is of course a land lubbers section for those who are so disposed. The wine list is impressive to say the least, and the cocktails are definitely worth a taste.

Moby Dick's is open for lunch as well. The chef has made a well rounded, extensive

menu for you to choose from. You will find what you want, whatever your craving may be at that time. The staff is amongst the friendliest on the island, ever so attentive to your every whim. So long story short, for unbelievable seafood in unique surroundings, go to Moby Dick's. You'll have a

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Barefoot Elegance, Starry Night, Cool Breezes, Fabulous Cuisine, And You...

The most delicious way to have dinner



Red Sail Sports teamed up with the Hyatt Regency and Marriott Resort to create an unforgettable Dinner Sail experience. Sure to be the highlight of your Aruban holiday, this Dinner Sail takes place this coming Wednesday and Thursday from 6 – 9 pm. Specially priced at \$95 per person, the Dinner Sail offers excellent value as it combines a sail along Aruba's scenic coastline and a spectacular view of the sunset with a tantalizing buffet catered by award-winning chefs. Dinner includes appetizers, salads, main courses and dessert selections. Champagne, red and white wine and beer is served along with an open bar which offers a variety of tropical cocktails, including some Aruban specialties – be sure to ask for a Captain's Special! Wednesday's nights Dinner Sail features a traditional Caribbean themed buffet catered by the chefs from the Marriott Resort.

Thursday's night Dinner Sail features a buffet with a Mediterranean twist. Whichever night you choose, you're sure to enjoy a unique dinner experience. Aruba's trade winds provide the ideal conditions for sailing aboard Red Sail Sports' top quality, luxurious catamarans. Set sail and join Red Sail Sports fun filled Half Day Luncheon or Antilla Snorkel Sail. These trips are safe for kids of all ages and bring you to the best snorkeling spots in Aruba, including Aruba's most famous snorkeling spot – the wreck of the Antilla where you can see yellowtail snapper, angelfish and dozens of other tropical fish. Red Sail Sports also offers a Sunset Sail where you can relax with a cocktail and enjoy the spectacular Aruban sunset – truly the best way to watch the sun go down while on your



Caribbean holiday. If you want to discover Aruba's underwater world, be sure to get in touch with Red Sail Sports. Learn to dive in one day with the Discover Scuba Dive Course, get PADI certified or join us on our daily one and two tank dives.

Red Sail Sports is Aruba's leading dive and watersports operator. Activity desks are located at the Hyatt Regency, Marriott Resorts and on Renaissance Island. To make reservations call 586-1603 or go to www.redsailaruba.com. Be sure to visit one of Red Sail Sports' stores for the latest in swimwear, beach essentials, T-shirts and souvenirs.



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PALM BEACH - Boasting fine dark wood finishes throughout, a patrons table and a fantastic outdoor terrace, café Rembrandt is sure to give you that comfortable and convivial feel.

The staff is a solid team with abundant experience, and they all share the love for hospitality. Café Rembrandt has the ambiance of a bar where you can spend an afternoon reading the paper, while at the

same go there for a big night out. Three days a week there is live music, always at the right pace but never too loud. Café Rembrandt is open for lunch, boasting various Dutch delights, ranging from sandwiches to "bitterballen" (the original Dutch snack) to salads and warm dishes. At night you can sit down both inside and out for a relaxed dinner.


The trio of owners focused very much on the right balance between price and quality, ensuring you can eat and drink for local prices. You will discover that the service is quick, but never in a hurry, and most people will stay the entire night. We invite you to come and indulge in that unique atmosphere you will only find at Café Rembrandt.

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PASEO HERENCIA - Nobushi brings to Aruba the finest sushi. If you are in a hurry, go somewhere else. At Nobushi, every single piece gets the love and attention it needs from the professional Sushi chefs. The chefs specialize in Aruba Exotic Sushi and Asian Cuisine with unique flavors second to none. The ever so friendly staff will gladly explain the different dishes and specials to you, and help you with unique food & wine pairings. Nobushi Sushi Bar & Asian Cuisine features a variety sashimi, sushi rolls,

chicken, fish and meat entrees that will enlighten your senses. Nobushi is located in the Paseo Herencia Mall across the Holiday Inn Resort.

**For reservations & more
information please
call: 586-2211 or ask your
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"Aruhiba" Aruba's homemade cigar



ORANJESTAD - Benjamin Petrochi has started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called 'Aruhiba'. These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrochi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold cigars from outside, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of



"Aruhiba" cigars in Aruba. The process took 5 years Petrochi's dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar case is specially designed for the cigars with the logo 'Aruhiba' and 'Made in Aruba'. Petrochi considers 'Aruhiba' a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells international cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba



Corona with five cigars and get 1 free for \$35.00. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill from 8am to 8pm. Closed on Sunday. The only place to get Aruhiba and all major credit cards accepted. We have homemade and best premium Cuban Cigars. All cigars are legal through costum. Call 586-7833 or 593-6177. Open for tour operators and we have a large parking space. Come and see Mr. Petrochi rolling the cigars everyday.



At the Crystal Theater

"Havana Dance," is the hottest Cuban show on the island



ORANJESTAD - The Dance" explodes on stage with a thrilling mix of Latin & Cuban music, colorful costumes and high energy, the magnificent "Havana contemporary Cuban

dance.

"Havana Dance" is the biggest stage production in the Caribbean, featuring Cuban dancers and entertainers directly from Havana. The show delivers a purely Cuban spectacle, with a cast of 12 female ballerinas, 4 male dancers, 2 singers and 3 acrobats, performing a fresh program accompanied by live Cuban music performed on stage by a genuine Cuban orchestra, consisting of 5 professional Cuban musicians. This live dance AND live music combination as seen in our pictures, is 'first of its kind' on the island.

While the greater part of the "Havana Dance" review enjoys predominantly Cuban flavor, the show is graced with a truly unique Caribbean choreography, and many tropical touches. "Havana Dance" unfolds on a two-tiered stage, with entrances and exits to and off the arena at different heights, which presents a



new visual concept. The custom-designed costumes are sensual, daring, colorful, and luxurious and set "Havana Dance" apart from any other cabaret. Producer Steve Hudson who enjoyed an unprecedentedly-successful seven-year run with his previous "Let's Go Latin" review, conceived and created an exciting and much-evolved new must-see spectacle. Tickets for "Havana Dance" are US\$ 49.- Children under 12 pay US\$25.- Tickets are available at the theater box office, Renaissance Aruba Resort, and can also be purchased

at the concierge's desk at the Renaissance Aruba Resort. Other ticket vendors include the De Palm Tours and Pelican Adventure Activity Centers at the resorts. A special dinner & show package is also available in conjunction with the L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House for US\$89.- per person. For additional information and reservations call the Crystal Theatre at Tel.: 583 6000, ext. 6115, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. After 5 p.m., call tel.: 583 6000 ext. 6357. Don't miss an opportunity to be greatly entertained by the sizzle of "Havana Dance." □



Aquarius Celebrates Carnival 55



ORANJESTAD -- For the upcoming weeks up to the end of February Aquarius Restaurant at the Renaissance Mall is offering a special fun promotion which will surely delight good-food lovers. The restaurant is offering a 15% discount off its \$39.- per person charge, for the sumptuous Seafood Dinner

Buffet, famous for live seafood action-stations.

The elaborate Aquarius Seafood Dinner Buffet menu includes a Seafood Bar featuring Maine Lobster chicks with mustard mayonnaise, Steamed Caribbean peel'n'eat shrimp, King Crab Legs, Coconut Seafood Ceviche flavored with Cilantro,



Hot Smoked Tuna served Sushi style, assorted Maki Sushi Rolls with seafood and vegetables and a Boucan fish board with smoked Mackerel, Herring, Eel and Mussels.

The Seafood Dinner Buffet also offers a rich Salad & Soup display with seasonal greens and a raw bar loaded with assorted dressings and condiments besides just-made Criollo Potato Salad, Marinated Ripe Tomatoes, Conch Salad, Peppered Bean Salad, Hearts of Palm, Surimi Crab Salad, Caribbean Seafood Salad, Marinated Feta with herbs, Pasta Pesto Salad, Apple Coleslaw & Creole Ratatouille. Known for their creative soup kettle the chefs of Aquarius restaurant are inspired to concoct a different Caribbean Soup, every day.

For main courses the chefs also compose a fresh selection each day brimming with beef, poultry, fish and pasta accompanied by vegetables, starches and



rice, which complement the interactive Cooking Station, sautéing Grouper, Snapper, Wahoo, Mahi Mahi, Tuna, Scallops and Shrimp, a la minute, with patrons' input and inspiration.

For those with healthy appetites, the Carving Station is ready to delight with Jamaican Roast Striploin topped by horseradish and Dijon mustard, in addition to Glazed Ham & Roast Turkey, but most diners head straight for the dessert extravaganza, indulging in the pastry chef's daily specialties, while they still have room . . .

Beware, Chef Christian Rast makes signature Coconut

Thyme Flan, Piña Colada Cake, Chocolate Cheesecake, White and Dark Chocolate Mouse, Coconut Cocada, and assorted melt-in-your-mouth cookies like no other chef on the island!

Kids under 5, accompanied by a paying adult, eat free of charge, and kids under 12, accompanied by a paying adult pay just \$19.50, explains Rebecca Verschoor Marval, Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino Marketing Communications & PR Manager. This fantastic discount offer is valid for food and cannot be combined with any other offers, she adds. The offer is extended to both locals and Aruba visitors. □

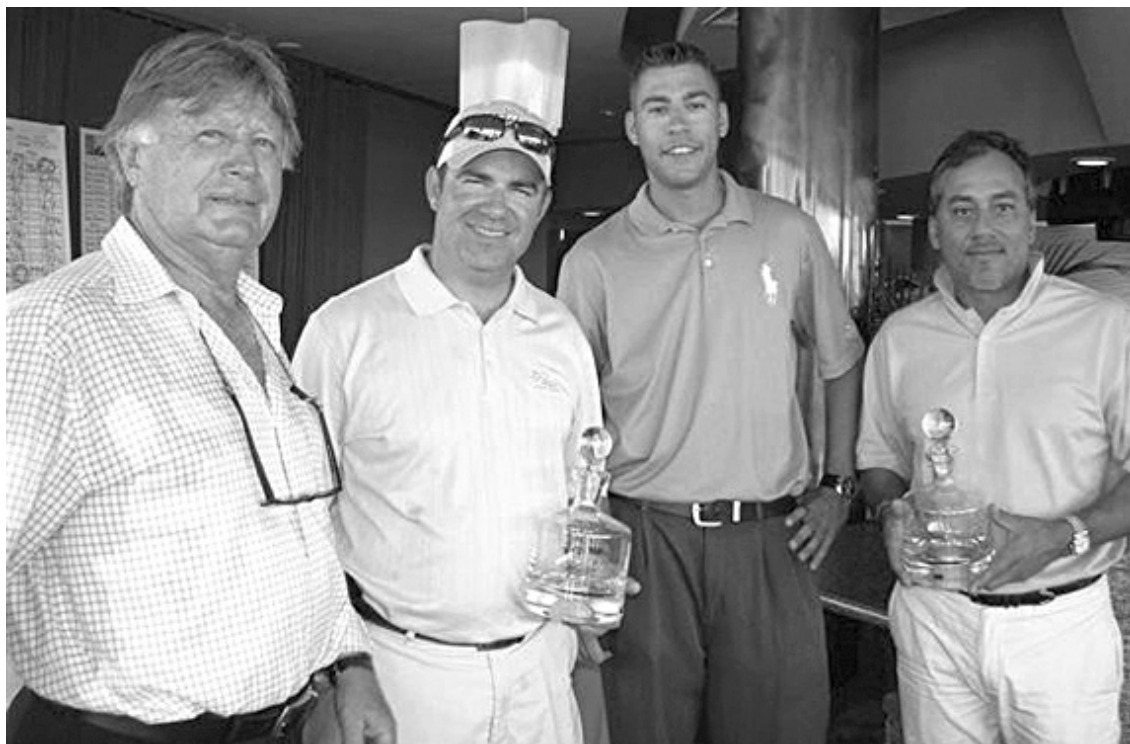


Junior Croes wins Betico Day



EAGLE BEACH—On Aruba's National Day "Dia Di Betico", celebrated in honor of Betico Croes, Divi Golf teed off a 2 person scramble at 9.30 a.m. The event was followed by an award ceremony at Mulligan's Golf Café Bar & Restaurant, pouring unlimited libations

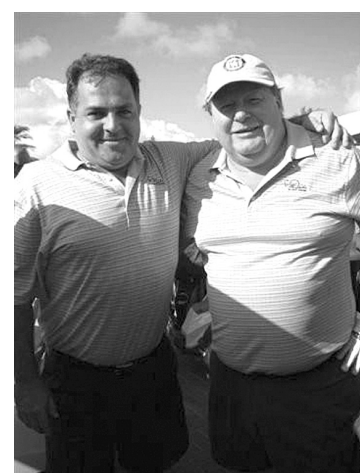
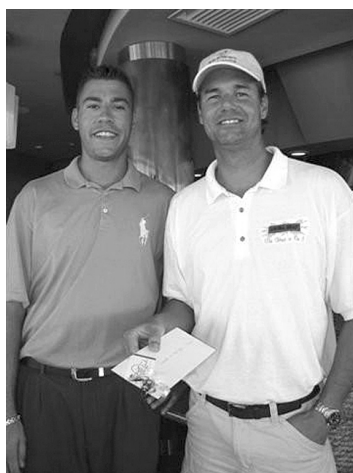
accompanied by tasty shareables which are the café's specialties by 2.30 p.m. The gross winners of the tournament were Junior Croes



and his partner Alejandro Rodriguez, who received an extra round of applause since

the tournament was named after Junior's late father. The gross 2nd place winners were

Anton Bernabella & Junior Alberts; net 1st place winners were Juan & Lucio Maduro; net



Buccaneer RESTAURANT

Buccaneer Restaurant is an island tradition for over 25 years that serve creative dishes prepared with a European touch with irresistible secret flavorings which continue to lure guests back, again and again. *Feast on fresh Caribbean catch in one of the cozy booths with a view of an aquarium at each seat, surrounded by tropical splendor and nautical decor. Our second dining room resembles an underwater cave, complete with a 7,500 gallon saltwater aquarium, unseen elsewhere.* Our friendly staff is here to give you the "Welcome Aboard" feeling and the chef-owner will personally take care of you.

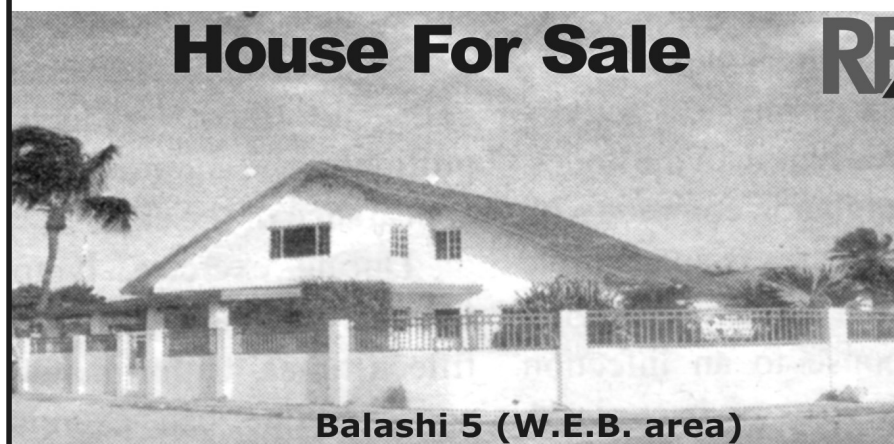
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Golf Tournament at Divi Links



2nd place winners were Omar de Souza & Giovanni Alencio. Tabitha Fecunda, Island Marketing & Promotion Manager for Divi Resorts

partnered with Caricia Bernabela, who won the ladies longest drive!! As she couldn't stay for the award ceremony Tabitha received her prize



and was very proud of her friend's accomplishments. Diko Kilislian won the men's longest drive while Michel Frank was closest to the pin. Organized by Divi's head golf pro James Kiley, the tournament was enjoyed by 60 locals players. KIA Motors sponsored a car for the winner of the hole-in-one which alas, did not find a new owner. Pictured here snapshot of a perfect day at Divi Links. □

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Pictured here snapshots from the Associate of the Year award ceremony and party held at the 9th floor penthouse suite of the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa. □



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bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar.

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In this photo provided by CBS, Vice President Joe Biden gestures after appearing on CBS's "Face the Nation" in Wilmington, Del., Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009.

Associated Press

Democrats: Stimulus plan no quick fix for economy

By STEVEN R. HURST

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Barack Obama returns to Capitol Hill this week, trying to turn back a growing Republican challenge to his \$825 billion economic stimulus plan and keep alive what he hoped would be a bipartisan assault on the worst U.S. economic crisis in decades. Maintaining the administration drumbeat in support of the massive spending package, Vice President Joe Biden said on Sunday that Congress must approve the measure quickly because "there's no good (economic) news on the immediate horizon."

After last week's blitz of executive orders, including a declaration to close the Guantanamo Bay military prison in Cuba, it appeared Obama next week would focus on the downward spiraling U.S. economy - the loss of 2.6 million jobs last year, manufacturing at a 28-year low and one in 10 homeowners at risk of losing their home.

Even Obama's economic experts forecast unemployment numbers that could climb above 10 percent before the recession ends.

While some Democratic allies complain that the stimulus package - already unprecedented in size - is too small, his biggest challenge comes from Republicans who believe the measure leans too heavily toward government spending and does too little to cut taxes.

Hoping to change their minds, Obama was to

travel to Capitol Hill on Tuesday for private meetings with the Republican leadership.

While the Democrats hold sizable majorities in both the House and the Senate, Obama wants bipartisan support for a stimulus plan that will send the American budget deficit above \$2 trillion in the first years of the new administration.

Sen. John McCain, Obama's opponent in the November presidential contest, said on Sunday he did not believe the stimulus package would do enough to create jobs.

"There have to be major rewrites if we want to stimulate the economy. ... As it stands now, I can't vote for it," McCain said on Fox television.

And John Boehner, the Republican leader in the House, restated his criticism of the plan's configuration.

"I just think there's a lot of slow-moving government spending in this program that won't work," Boehner said. "We can't borrow and spend our way back to prosperity."

Boehner spoke on NBC television, shortly after Obama's chief economic adviser, Lawrence Summers, defended the spending plan on the same program.

Summers said Obama was trying to balance Republican objections with the desire of some fellow Democrats who want even more federal spending.

Continued on Next Page

McCain grudgingly says defense pick will proceed

WASHINGTON (AP) - Sen. John McCain said Sunday the confirmation of President Barack Obama's choice for deputy defense secretary should move forward despite concerns about the nominee's role as a former defense lobbyist.

The Obama administration considers William J. Lynn, the president's pick for the No. 2 job at the Pentagon, to be an exception from its own ban on hiring lobbyists. As a lobbyist for Raytheon, one of the military's top contractors, Lynn worked on matters with far reach across the Pentagon. White House press secretary Robert Gibbs has said that even the toughest rules require "reasonable exceptions" for "uniquely qualified individuals."

Continued on Page B4

Associated Press



This is an undated photo provided by the U.S. Department of Defense of William J. Lynn then Under Secretary of Defense. President-elect Barack Obama appointed William J. Lynn III, a defense contractor's lobbyist, Thursday Jan. 8, 2009 to become the No. 2 official at the Defense Department, a choice that appeared to break with his self-imposed rules to keep lobbyists at arm's length.



Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, left, arrives at the weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009. Israel's Cabinet was due to vote Sunday on a measure ensuring the government will provide "moral and legal support" for military officers in potential court cases related the conduct during Israeli operation in the Gaza Strip.

Associated Press

Israel vows to back soldiers accused of war crimes

By JOSEF FEDERMAN

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP) - Special legal teams will defend Israeli soldiers against potential war crimes charges stemming from civilian deaths in the Gaza Strip, the prime minister said Sunday, promising the country would "fully back" those who fought in the three-week offensive.

Continued on Page B6

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STIMULUS PLAN
Continued from Page B1

In this photograph provided by "Meet the Press," Minority Leader Rep. John Boehner appears on "Meet the Press" with moderator David Gregory Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009, at the NBC studios in Washington.

Associated Press

Summers said Americans must remember that while the stimulus was intended to jolt the economy toward recovery, "these problems weren't made in a day or a week or a month or even a year, and they're not going to get solved that fast." "The next few months are, no question, going to be very, very difficult, and, and it may be longer, it may be longer than that," Summers said in one of

the gloomier discussions of the crisis gripping the United States.

Compounding Biden's dismal assessment of the country's economic future, the vice president forecast that the American people could expect an increase in U.S. military casualties in Afghanistan.

Obama pledged during his campaign to increase American forces in Afghanistan in an attempt to reverse gains made by the Taliban. He also said American troops would move against al-Qaida targets inside neighboring Pakistan if Islamabad was unwilling or unable to act.

"I hate to say it but, yes, I do think there will be an uptick (in U.S. casualties)," Biden said. He declined all comment on alleged cross-border attacks. But the American economic

crisis dominated the country's political discussions Sunday.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said she could envision even more money for the financial sector - beyond the \$700 billion Congress already appropriated - so long as the government, on behalf of taxpayers, takes an ownership stake in banks that receive the money.

She mentioned no dollar figure and refused to use the term "nationalization" when referring to additional rescue dollars.

Already \$350 billion has gone out to banks and financial institutions under the just-departed Bush administration, and the second \$350 billion installment is now in the hands of the Obama administration, which is promising tougher standards on how the money is used. □

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States may gain power over emissions standards

By BEN FELLER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama is poised to let California and other states set their own auto emission standards in their drive to slash greenhouse gases, an official familiar with the decision said Sunday.

The move is significant on two fronts: It could empower states to set tougher standards in targeting emissions, which are blamed for contributing to global climate change; and it would be another swift reversal by Obama of Bush administration policy, this time on energy.

Plunging into his first full week at president, Obama is expected to reveal the auto-emissions policy Monday morning in the East Room of the White House.

The official familiar with the details spoke on condition of anonymity because the plan had not yet been announced.

Obama is also expected to direct the Transportation Department to get moving on rules for automakers to improve fuel economy. A 2007 law requires that by 2020 new cars and trucks meet 35 miles per gallon, a 40 percent increase over current standards. The Bush

administration ended its tenure before putting the new fuel-economy rules in place.

On tailpipe emissions from cars and trucks, California and at least 13 other states have sought permission to enact tough standards by getting waivers under the Clean Air Act.

The Bush administration's Environmental Protection Agency denied that permission, arguing it was more effective to have a national strategy in curbing greenhouse gases. California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has lobbied Obama to step in and reverse the decision.

As a candidate for president, Obama pledged to overturn the EPA's denial of a waiver to California — a denial that affects several other states that have followed California's lead in emissions standards.

On Monday, Obama will order the EPA to reconsider the California decision, a process that could take time but is expected to end up in the states' favor.

The New York Times first reported Obama's planned moves on its Web site Sunday night.

The president on Monday is also expected to tout proposals that he says would boost clean energy supplies while also producing badly needed jobs in so-called "green" industries. □

Impeachment trial to proceed without Illinois Governor

By CHRISTOPHER WILLS
Associated Press Writer
SPRINGFIELD, Illinois (AP) - If there's such a thing as a "normal" impeachment trial, the one that starts Monday in Illinois doesn't qualify. The defendant, Gov. Rod Blagojevich, won't participate. He'll be speaking to TV talk show hosts Whoopi Goldberg and Larry King instead of facing the state Senate. And while the Democrat acknowledges his conviction is certain, he refuses to resign. Blagojevich was accused of scheming to benefit from his power to name President Barack Obama's replacement in the U.S. Senate. Federal prosecutors also said their wiretaps caught Blagojevich threatening to withhold money for children's health care unless he got campaign donations from a hospital executive and offering to trade state aid to the Tribune Co. in exchange for the Chicago Tribune firing unfriendly editorial writers. Blagojevich complains that the impeachment trial rules are unfair, but he and his lawyers didn't try to influence the rules as they were written or afterward. After weeks of near-silence, Blagojevich has begun an energetic public relations campaign, comparing himself to the hero of a Frank Capra movie and a cowboy being lynched for a crime he didn't commit. He said that when

he was arrested on federal corruption charges, he took solace from other leaders who have been jailed. "I thought about Mandela, Dr. King, Gandhi" and that helped him gain perspective, he said in an interview that aired Sunday on "Today." The full interview will air Monday, the same day the impeachment trial starts and Blagojevich is scheduled to appear on "Good Morning, America," "The View" and "Larry King Live." Blagojevich left his home Sunday carrying a biography of Winston Churchill. Legal experts see little benefit to Blagojevich from boycotting the trial while refusing to resign. The decision means he'll still be leaving office soon, but only after proceedings guaranteed to put him in a bad light. Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin said Sunday that Blagojevich should be defending himself at the trial because the extra media attention wouldn't impress the state senators that would be judging him. "Barbara Walters is not on his jury," Durbin said, referring to the veteran newswoman who co-hosts "The View." Senators, and thus the public, will hear details of the criminal charges against Blagojevich. They're likely to hear recordings that allegedly reveal the governor talking about signing legislation in exchange for campaign

contributions. And in addition to simply removing Blagojevich, the Senate could vote to bar him from ever again holding public office in Illinois. "This man mystifies me," said Ann Lousin, a professor at Chicago's John Marshall Law School. The governor's decision to cling to office also surprises Dean Pagani, former chief of staff to Connecticut Gov. John Rowland, who resigned in 2004 rather than be impeached. The stain of being convicted and removed from office would be far greater for Blagojevich than the stain of resigning, Pagani said. A resignation would allow Blagojevich to claim he stepped aside for the good of the state, not because he was judged unfit to hold office. "It's unfortunate for the state," Pagani said. "Whether you like it or not, when a governor is in this kind of situation everything grinds to a halt. There's only one issue the capitol building can deal with, and that's impeachment." Resignation might even help Blagojevich with jurors in any future criminal trial, said one expert. "If I were his lawyer, I would say, 'Why don't you



Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich leaves his home in Chicago, Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009, before flying to New York to appear on national television shows.

Associated Press

make yourself a little less offensive to people? Why not make yourself a little more sympathetic?" said Leonard Cavise, a law professor at DePaul University. Yet Blagojevich says that's not an option. "I'm not going to resign, of course not," he told The Associated Press. "I've done absolutely nothing wrong." Whatever the Senate decides, the criminal case against Blagojevich, 52, won't be affected. With Blagojevich refusing to mount a defense, the impeachment trial could

wrap up within days, ending a bizarre political and legal spectacle that began Dec. 9 with Blagojevich's arrest by FBI agents. His arrest was the final straw for lawmakers, who had spent six years butting heads with Blagojevich. The House quickly voted 114-1 for impeaching the governor. That sent the case to the Senate, where it would take a two-thirds majority to convict Blagojevich and throw him out of office. Lt. Gov. Patrick Quinn would replace him, becoming Illinois' 41st governor.

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Burden in Minn. Senate trial heavier on Coleman



Senate Majority Leader Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., right, sits with Minnesota Democrat Senate hopeful Al Franken in Reid's office on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2009.

Associated Press

By PATRICK CONDON
Associated Press Writer

ST. PAUL, Minnesota (AP) - It's been two months since the U.S. Senate election that pitted Democrat Al Franken, the former "Saturday Night Live" comedian, against incumbent Republican Norm Coleman, but it's still impossible to say who actually won.

Their contest enters a new phase Monday when a panel of three judges begins hearing Coleman's lawsuit over a recount that left him out in the cold. Coleman argues that ballot irregularities and improperly rejected absentee vote are the reasons Franken holds a narrow lead.

But legal experts say it is

Coleman who faces the bigger challenge.

That's because Franken is sitting on a state-declared 225-vote lead, giving Coleman two hills to climb.

First, his lawyers have to produce proof of the irregularities and inconsistencies that they are alleging riddled the vote tally with fatal flaws.

Then, if they meet that burden of proof, Coleman must make up enough votes to overtake Franken. But even Coleman's lawyers acknowledge that if the alleged mistakes are corrected Franken also would gain some votes.

"It's an uphill battle" for Coleman, said Ned Foley,

an Ohio State University political scientist who's been monitoring Minnesota's recount. Franken, by

contrast, mainly has to argue that decisions made so far - mostly by members of a state canvassing board that included two Supreme Court justices - were correct.

Foley notes that while Coleman faces obstacles, he benefits from the fact that the trial is considered a "de novo" proceeding - Latin for "new trial" - meaning the judges can make decisions on the facts in the case without being bound by anything that's happened in the last two months of recounts and legal wrangling over ballots.

Coleman's attorneys have stressed this fact.

"You are the single set of eyes to give finality in Minnesota to the election dispute," Coleman attorney Tony Trimble told the judges in a pretrial hearing last week.

Recently, Franken's lead attorney Marc Elias has repeatedly returned to arguing that Minnesota is in what he called a "constitutional

crisis" because it currently only has one U.S. senator in Washington. In a separate legal proceeding scheduled for Feb. 5, Franken will ask the Minnesota Supreme Court to order Gov. Tim Pawlenty and Secretary of State Mark Ritchie to issue him a temporary election certificate - a step both have so far refused.

Coleman acknowledges the desire of Minnesotans "to see this moved along as expeditiously as possible," he said in an interview last week with The Associated Press. But he insists there is a greater value in making sure that the election was conducted fairly. No one on either side is willing to predict how long the trial might last.

Whichever candidate loses the trial also has options that would drag out a resolution still more, including possible appeals to the Minnesota Supreme Court, federal courts or even the U.S. Senate. □

MCCAIN

Continued from Page B1

"I don't like it," said McCain, the Arizona senator and Obama's Republican competitor in the 2008 presidential race. "I think it's a bit disingenuous to announce strict rules and then nominate someone with a waiver from the rules that you just announced in one of the most important jobs in Washington." But McCain, the top Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee, added: "I have asked to see which areas that Mr. Lynn will be recused from. But I think we need to probably move forward with his - with his nomination."

The Pentagon announced Friday that Lynn will sell his stock in Raytheon. But he won't be forced to step back from decisions related to his former employer. Instead, his dealings at the Defense Department will be subject to ethics reviews for one year, the Pentagon said.

The administration wants to waive Obama's ethics pledge for Lynn in two specific areas: a two-year prohibition on employees from

participating in decisions related to their former employers, and a more specific section banning individuals from taking jobs in the agencies they recently lobbied.

"The fact is that there are a lot of talented people who have been in the lobbying business that could serve the country well, and I guess every rule has a goal, and that's to show the government's going to be run differently," said Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, a committee member.

"And Mr. Lynn has a resume that shows he could serve in a very important role now, so it's just the reality of policies versus governance," Graham said, adding that he applauds Obama "for trying to change the culture of government."

Lynn "is very good at what he would be assigned to do, so I'm willing to let it go if he's willing to make the waiver," Graham said.

McCain appeared on "Fox News Sunday," while Graham spoke on CNN's "State of the Union." □



Latest in series of Pa. fires claims 15 homes

COATESVILLE, Pennsylvania (AP) - The latest in a string of suspicious fires in this Philadelphia suburb tore through a block of row houses, damaging 15 homes, leaving several dozen people homeless and prompting city officials to declare a state of emergency.

At least 30 arsons have been reported since the beginning of 2008, about half of them in the last three weeks. Police said the blazes may be part of a gang initiation, but there was no clear information who was committing the crimes or why.

The latest fire was reported late Saturday at the rear of one house and quickly spread to adjacent homes in the Chester County community.

"This is an arson, no question about it," City Manager Harry Walker said Sunday.

The emergency declaration gives the city powers to deal with the situation without worrying about the budget, such as boarding up the buildings, assigning police to protect them and helping

the families involved, Walker said.

The fire came despite stepped-up police patrols and investigative help from county, state and federal agencies. Three people were arrested in December.

"A lot of people are scared," resident Marissa Martinez said as she watched smoke rise from the rubble. "I never thought things could come to this point."

Fifteen homes were damaged and some may have to be demolished, Walker said. Damage was estimated at \$1.2 million, bringing the total fire damage since last summer to \$3 million.

The southeastern Pennsylvania chapter of the American Red Cross was helping 14 families, a total of 50 people - 32 adults and 18 children, spokeswoman Denise Venuti Free said in a statement Sunday.

One of the homes destroyed belonged to City Councilwoman Robin Scott, who said she and her family got out safely after police officers knocked on doors to

alert residents.

Police Chief William Matthews said more than one person appears to be involved because of the number of fires and the fact that many have occurred within minutes of each other.

Walker said authorities fear that the latest blazes were copycats, since they had already arrested three people in December believed to have been responsible for 15 fires.

"The more we caught them, the more fires were set," he said. Authorities urged residents to remove flammable materials from porches and to keep porch lights on at night or install lights that are turned on by motion detectors.

"It costs 76 cents a week to keep your porch light on," the police chief said Sunday. "That 76 cents should be considered a down payment on the safety of your family and friends in the neighborhood."

One firefighter sustained an ankle injury, but no other injuries were reported.

Coatesville is about 45 miles west of Philadelphia. □



A firefighter climbs on a ladder during efforts to extinguish burning row houses in Coatesville, Pa. on late Saturday, Jan. 24, 2009. This was the latest in a string of suspicious fires in this Philadelphia suburb. At least 30 arsons have been reported in the area since the beginning of 2008, about half of them in the last three weeks. There was no clear information who was committing the crimes or why.

Associated Press

Boy, 14, dupes police, patrols Chicago for 5 hours

By MICHAEL TARM
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO (AP) - A 14-year-old aspiring police officer donned a uniform, walked into a Chicago police station and managed to get an assignment - patrolling in a squad car for five hours before he was detected, police said Sunday.

The boy did not have a gun, never issued any tickets and didn't drive the squad car, Deputy Superintendent Daniel Dugan said.

Assistant Superintendent James Jackson said the ruse was discovered only after the boy's patrol with an actual officer ended Saturday. Officers noticed his uniform lacked a star that

is part of the regulation uniform.

Police said they were investigating how the deception went undetected for so long in what they described as a serious security breach.

Police didn't identify the boy because of his age. He has been charged as a juvenile with impersonating an officer.

Dugan said the boy looks older than 14 and was motivated by a desire to be an officer, not malice or "ill intent."

The boy once took part in a Chicago program for youth interested in policing, so he would have been familiar with some procedures, perhaps helping him blend in, police spokeswoman Monique Bond said. □

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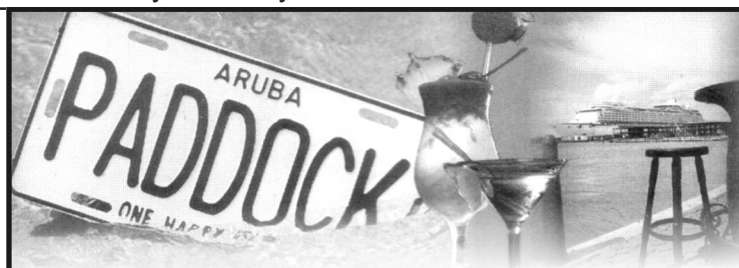
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Three Israeli soldiers stand at their position on the Israeli border side, watching Lebanese and Palestinian protesters protest during a sit-in to show their support to the Palestinian in Gaza Strip, at the Lebanese-Israeli border, in the village of Kfar Killa, southern Lebanon, on Sunday Jan. 25, 2009. A Hamas delegation is due to start talks with Egyptian officials on means to reopen the border, largely closed since the group took over Gaza.

Associated Press

WAR CRIMES

Continued from Page B1

The move reflected growing concerns by Israel that officers could be subject to international prosecution, despite the army's claims that Hamas militants caused the civilian casualties by staging attacks from residential areas.

"The state of Israel will fully back those who acted on its behalf," Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said. "The soldiers and commanders who were sent on missions in Gaza must know that they are safe from various tribunals."

Speaking at the weekly meeting of his Cabinet, Olmert said Israel's justice minister would lead a team of senior officials to coordinate the legal defense of anyone involved in the offensive.

Israel launched its 22-day offensive to try to halt Hamas rocket fire on southern Israel. The assault killed 1,285 Palestinians, more than half of them civilians, the Palestinian Center for Human Rights counted. Thirteen Israelis, including three civilians, were also killed during the fighting, Israel said.

At talks Sunday in Cairo aimed at solidifying the truce, Hamas official Ayman Taha said the Islamic group offered a one-year truce to Israel, including the reopening of border crossings to allow vital supplies into Gaza. He said Israel offered an 18-month truce, which Hamas rejected. Israeli officials refused to comment.

A low-level delegation from Hamas' rival, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' West Bank-based government, was also in Cairo for talks, but was not expected to meet with the Hamas envoys.

Israel and Hamas are bitter enemies and do not talk to each other, relying instead on Egyptian mediation.

In addition to the civilian death toll, Israel has faced international criticism for its use of white phosphorous, and for shelling attacks that struck United Nations schools and installations that were serving as shelters.

Israeli, Palestinian and international human rights groups have said they are seeking to

build a case that Israel violated the laws of war. The groups are focusing on suspicions that Israel used disproportionate force and failed to protect civilians. They also have criticized Hamas for using civilians as human shields and firing rockets at civilian targets in Israel.

Israeli officials have said they took great efforts to avoid civilian casualties, and accused Hamas of deliberately using mosques, schools and residential neighborhoods for cover. Olmert angrily accused the "international legal arena" of "moral acrobatics" by ignoring years of Palestinian rocket salvos aimed at Israeli civilians.

"The state of Israel did everything in order to avoid hitting civilians. I do not know of any military that is more moral, fair and sensitive to civilians' lives," Olmert said.

In another precaution, Israel's military censor already has barred publication of the names or pictures of battlefield officers from the offensive.

Israeli leaders have faced similar concerns in the past. In 2001, then-Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was sued in Belgium over his alleged role in a 1982 massacre in Lebanon's Sabra and Shatila refugee camps. He was never convicted.

In 2005, a London court issued an arrest warrant for a retired Israeli general for his role in the bulldozing of houses in a Gaza refugee camp. The general ducked arrest by staying on his plane at London's Heathrow airport and flying back to Israel. Another top official, Cabinet Minister Avi Dichter, turned down an invitation to Britain out of concern that he could be arrested for his role in the 2002 assassination of a senior Hamas militant in Gaza.

The Israeli offensive ended with a temporary cease-fire last week, and international mediators are trying to work out a longer-term arrangement.

Israel wants guarantees that Hamas will stop firing rockets and be prevented from smuggling weapons into Gaza from neighboring Egypt.

Vietnam ferry accident kills 40, mars Tet new year

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) - A small ferry overloaded with holiday shoppers sank in central Vietnam on Sunday, killing at least 40 people ahead of the traditional Lunar New Year.

At least 36 passengers survived, a few by swimming to shore and others plucked by rescuers from the Gianh river in Quang Binh province, local police chief Phan Thanh Ha said.

The boat's owner and captain were detained for questioning, Ha said. An initial investigation

showed the wooden boat was overloaded with nearly 80 people, though it was designed to carry only 12.

Searchers recovered 40 bodies, including 27 women - three of whom were pregnant - and seven children, he said.

The people from Quang Hai village were crossing the river to buy things for the Lunar New Year festivities. Known as Tet in Vietnam, the new year is the country's biggest holiday and begins Monday. "It's a tragedy for the province," said Phan Lam

Phuong, the governor of Quang Binh, about 315 miles south of Hanoi. "It should have been time to celebrate Tet."

The provincial government has decided to cancel a planned Lunar New Year fireworks show, the governor said, adding authorities will give 10 million dong (\$600) to the families of each victim.

The boat was only 65 feet away from the river bank when it began to take on water, apparently from the weight of too many passengers, Ha said.



A boat carries bodies of ferry accident victims in the Gianh river in Quang Binh province, about 315 miles south of Hanoi, Vietnam, Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009. A small ferry overloaded with passengers sank in central Vietnam on Sunday, killing at least 40 people including seven girls and 27 women.

Associated Press

Some of the passengers got up in a panic and the boat tilted to take on even more water, quickly sinking, he said.

"This is one of the worst ferry accidents in Vietnam," Ha said.

Vietnam is crisscrossed by hundreds of rivers and streams, but many of them have no bridges, forcing villagers to rely on small boats to ferry them across. Dozens of Vietnamese drown each year in boat accidents. □

Indian police kill two suspected Pakistani militants

NEW DELHI (AP) - Indian police fatally shot two suspected militants from Pakistan in a pre-dawn car chase near New Delhi, a government official said.

The two men engaged in a gunbattle with the anti-terror squad Sunday in the suburb of Noida, which borders the Indian capital, said Amit Kumar, a constable attached to the local superintendent's office.

Two AK-47 assault rifles, several rounds of ammunition, five hand grenades and a Pakistani passport and identity cards were recovered from the two men, Kumar said.

The two men died on their way to a hospital, he said. An Indian police officer was also injured in the incident.

Before he died one of the men identified himself as Farooq and his companion as Abu Ismail and said they were both from Pakistan, Kumar said. The documents and identities of the two men were being verified by police, he added. Pakistan's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mohammed Sadiq, declined to comment.

Kumar said police were searching vehicles as part of security procedures ahead of India's Republic Day on Monday when the car in which the two men were traveling refused to stop.

Police chased the car and the men opened fire, prompting the police to fire back, Kumar

said.

Kumar said the investigation was at a preliminary stage and no details had emerged to link the men to a specific terrorist group.

Security is always heavy ahead of the national holiday, but this year it is exceptionally tight because of the November

attacks in Mumbai that killed 164 people.

India says the banned Pakistani militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba was behind the Mumbai attacks. Pakistan has said it is investigating that claim, though it has accepted that the one gunman captured alive is a Pakistani. □

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Rwanda-Congo force pushes deeper into militia zone



Alan Doss, the U.N.'s top envoy to Congo, arrives with a delegation of Congolese army officials for meetings between the U.N. and Congolese authorities in Goma, Congo Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009. A Congo military spokesman says Rwandan and Congolese troops pushed deeper into zones held by Rwandan Hutu militiamen Sunday in an unprecedented joint military operation that began this week.

Associated Press

By EDDY ISANGO
Associated Press Writer
KINSHASA, Congo (AP) - Rwandan and Congolese troops pushed deeper into zones held by Rwandan Hutu militiamen Sunday in a joint military operation designed to crush armed groups that have destabilized central Africa, a military spokesman said. Nine Rwandan militiamen were killed and one Congo army soldier was wounded in attacks a day earlier on militia positions in five villages in Lubero district, said Congolese military spokesman Capt. Olivier Hamuli.

U.N. peacekeeping spokesman Lt. Col. Jean-Paul Dietrich gave the same death toll, but said his information had also come from Congolese army sources and that the U.N. mission could not confirm it. The 17,000-strong peacekeeping force is not part of the operation, but U.N. troops plan to carry out patrols in zones dominated by the militias "to get an idea what is going on" there, Dietrich said. Rwanda and Congo have been enemies for years, but the two neighbors suddenly changed tactics and began cooperating last week in hopes of disarming groups each nation had backed as proxies.

The east has been wracked by violence since Rwanda's 1994 genocide spilled war across the border. Hutu militias who participated in the massacres

of more than 500,000 mostly ethnic Tutsi civilians sought refuge in Congo.

Rwanda invaded twice in the 1990s to eradicate the militias, though it was accused of plundering Congo's vast mineral wealth instead. The militia's presence in Congo also gave birth in 2004 to a Tutsi rebellion led by Laurent Nkunda, who was allied to Rwanda.

But Rwandan troops turned on Nkunda and captured him Thursday as part of a breakthrough deal that saw at least 4,000 Rwandan soldiers enter Congo to hunt down the Hutu militias. The move is a risky gamble for Congo's President Joseph Kabila because the Rwandans are deeply unpopular and some believe they may provoke more violence.

The remarkable deal has allowed Congo to take back territories previously controlled by rebels — something that would have been unthinkable just weeks ago. It also included a promise by the remnants of Nkunda's rebels to operate under the command of the national army and join it later.

So far, the rebels appear to be cooperating, and on Saturday, nearly 500 army troops and rebels could be seen moving together on the main road north of the provincial capital, Goma, toward Rutshuru, which had been held by

Nkunda's Tutsi forces. Hamuli claimed Nkunda's fighters, numbering around 5,000 to 6,000 men, had already integrated into the army and the rebel force no longer existed. Former rebel spokesman Col. Seraphin Mirindi, who has been close to Nkunda, said the rebels were participating in the joint operation and its six brigades were now under army command.

Dietrich could not say whether the rebels were yet integrated, however. Peacekeepers saw several hundred rebels on the move with the joint Congo-Rwanda force, and he said it was possible some rebel units had already been integrated on an "ad-hoc basis."

Real integration "has to be done very carefully. It takes time," Dietrich said, adding that discussions began last week on how to do it.

Human rights groups have accused all armed factions in the east of forcibly recruiting children into their ranks to serve as porters, cooks, spies and fighters.

U.N.'s Congo mission chief Alan Doss issued a statement calling saying the integration process "should not serve as a pretext to recruit or re-recruit children."

He said an estimated 3,000 children were being held by various factions, and they "must be freed immediately." □

France, Spain still shaken by deadly storms

By JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press Writer

PARIS — French authorities deployed 10,000 cleanup and recovery workers and Spain let evacuated villagers return home Sunday a day after deadly storms pounded southwest France and northeast Spain.

Authorities in Spain reported at least 12 deaths linked to the storm, including four children crushed as a sports facility buckled in high winds in Barcelona. In France, at least eight people died — including two couples who died of carbon-monoxide poisoning from generators they had turned on as power outages swept the region, officials said. Chain saws buzzed and clearing crews fanned out on both sides of the French-Spanish border as workers cut through felled trees on homes, power lines, rail tracks and roadways and took away debris Sunday.

"The issue today is to restore electricity as quickly as possible," French President Nicolas Sarkozy told reporters at a crisis response

center in Bordeaux, adding that 10,000 people including rescue teams, state officials, civil security workers and others had been deployed in France.

ERDF, an Electricite de France subsidiary, said that it had managed to restore power to 900,000 customers among 1.7 million who initially were hit with the blackout Saturday. Tens of thousands of homes in Spain were without electricity.

In France, rail operator SNCF said service was gradually returning in the region after 900 miles of rail had been affected by the storm.

In Spain, the bullet-train link between Madrid and Barcelona was restored as debris was cleared off the track, but services into France won't resume Sunday, state rail operator Renfe said. In Spain, aircraft battled forest fires near the eastern town of La Nucia that the town's mayor said was caused when winds blew down a high-tension power pylon in a wooded area. □



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R	NOTORIOUS	daily: 4:15 6:50 9:20	matinee: 1:40 late show: 11:50	
PG-13	YES MAN	daily: 5:20 7:30 9:45	matinee: 12:45 3:00 late show: 11:55	
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R	REVOLUTIONARY ROAD	daily: 5:00 7:25 9:55	matinee: 12:00 2:30 late show: 12:15	NEW
PG	INKHEART	daily: 5:20 7:35 9:50	matinee: 12:50 3:05 late show: 12:00	NEW
PG-13	YES MEN	daily: 5:40 7:50 10:05	matinee: 1:05 3:25 late show: 12:15	
R	THE PUNISHER: WAR ZONE	daily: 5:30 8:00 10:10	matinee: 1:00 3:15 late show: 12:25	
R	VALKYRIE	daily: 4:55 7:20 9:45	matinee: 11:50 2:20 late show: 12:10	
PG	BRIDE WARS	daily: 4:05 6:05 8:05 10:00	matinee: 12:05 2:05 late show: 12:05	

DRIVE-IN January 22 – January 25

PG	BOLT	Thursday: 8:00 Friday: 8:00 & 10:30	
R	VALKYRIE	Saturday: 8:00 & 10:30 Sunday: 8:00	

Matinee: sat & sun | Late show: fri & sat

Iran tests air-to-air missile

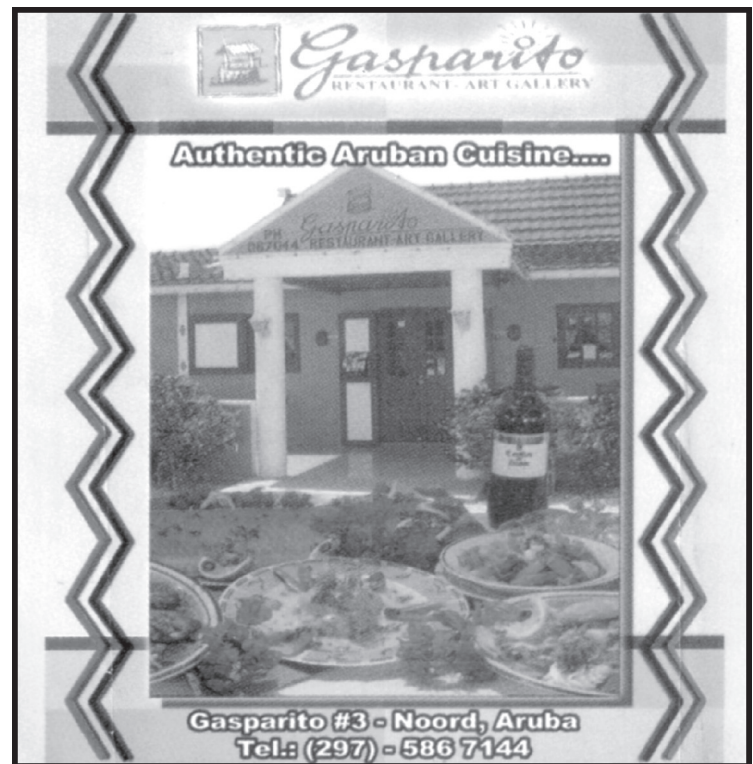
TEHRAN, Iran – Iran’s state television says the country has successfully test-fired a heat-seeking air-to-air missile. The Sunday report quotes air force chief Gen. Hasan Shahsafi as saying the missile has a range of 62 miles, or 100 kilometers. The report did not elaborate. Iran periodically announces missile tests to demonstrate the self-sufficiency of its defense industries. Iran launched an arms development program during its 1980-88 war with Iraq to compensate for a U.S. weapons embargo. Since 1992, Iran has produced its own tanks, armored personnel carriers, missiles and a fighter plane. □

Ex-Mexican drug czar jailed on corruption charges

TUXTLA GUTIERREZ, Mexico – Prosecutors have arrested a former Mexican drug czar for alleged corruption. Chiapas state Attorney General Raciél Lopez says Mariano Herran was charged with embezzling funds while working as Chiapas economy secretary last year. He gave no further details on Sunday. Herran was Mexico’s drug czar from 1997 to 2000, replacing Gen. Jesus Gutierrez Rebollo, who was convicted of aiding a top drug lord. Herran served as Chiapas chief prosecutor from 2000 to 2006, then as economy secretary. His arrest follows the jailing of a dozen-high ranking officials with alleged ties to the Sinaloa cartel — Mexico’s biggest corruption scandal since Rebollo. □

Fifteen players die in Nigeria road accident

JOS, Nigeria (AP) - A bus carrying a soccer team and a vehicle transporting cattle crashed into each other Sunday on a central Nigerian road, tumbling both vehicles into a ditch and killing 15 sportsmen, police said. Plateau State police spokesman Saidu Ibrahim said 12 players and three coaches of Adamawa United died instantly in the afternoon crash on the road connecting the Nigerian capital of Abuja with a regional city, Jos. Witnesses said seven other people were taken to a hospital for treatment. Ibrahim said the accident occurred when one vehicle attempted to pass the other on the two-lane road, but it wasn’t clear which driver was at fault. Fatal traffic accidents are common in Nigeria, where decades-old roads are normally pitted with potholes and drivers frequently fail to observe traffic-safety regulations. □



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Bolivia charter aims to empower Indian majority

By **DAN KEANE**

Associated Press Writer

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) -

Bolivians voted Sunday on a draft constitution promising a new deal for the Andean nation's long-suffering indigenous majority and granting leftist President Evo Morales a shot at remaining in office through 2014.

The charter was expected to pass easily in a country where many can still recall when Indians were forbidden to vote.

Sunday's vote went peacefully, a relief for a divided nation where tensions over race and class have recently turned deadly. Opposition leaders worry the constitution's indigenous focus could leave out Bolivia's minority mestizo and white population, foreshadowing more political turmoil to come.

Morales, Bolivia's first Indian president, says the charter will "decolonize" South America's poorest country by recovering indigenous values lost under centuries of oppression dating back to the Spanish conquest. Bolivia's Aymara, Quechua, Guarani and dozens of other indigenous groups only won the right to vote in 1952, when a revolution broke up the large haciendas on which they had lived as peons for generations.

Subsequent decades of dictatorships, corruption and racist neglect have left many Bolivians little better off than



An Aymara Indian casts his ballot at a voting center in a rural school in Walata Chico, Bolivia, Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009. Bolivians are voting on President Evo Morales' proposed changes to the constitution, aimed at remaking the country on behalf its indigenous majority and allowing Morales to run for a second consecutive five-year term.

Associated Press

before.

"The poorest people are the majority. The people with money are only a tiny few. That's what you have to consider," said voter Eloy Huanca outside a polling place in El Alto, a sprawling Aymara satellite city outside the capital La Paz.

"They ran things before, and now it's our turn."

The proposed document would create a new Congress with seats reserved for Bolivia's smaller indigenous groups and eliminates any mention of The Roman Catholic Church, instead recognizing and

honoring the Andean earth deity Pachamama.

The charter's critics say it does not reflect Bolivia's growing urban population, which mixes both Indian blood and tradition with a new Western identity.

"People will go to vote for the possibility of dreaming for a better country _ but a country for all of us," said Ruben Costas, opposition governor of the eastern state of Santa Cruz. "We should all be part of this change."

The proposed charter calls for a general election in December in which Morales could run

for a second, consecutive five-year term. The current constitution permits two terms, but not consecutively. At the heart of the proposed constitution is a provision granting autonomy for 36 indigenous "nations" and several opposition-controlled eastern states. But both are given a vaguely defined "equal rank" that fails to resolve their rival claims over open land in Bolivia's fertile eastern lowlands, whose large agribusiness interests and valuable gas reserves drive much of the country's economy.

With an eye to redistributing territory in the region, the constitution also would limit future land holdings to either 12,000 or 24,000 acres, depending which voters choose. Current landholders

are exempt from the cap - a nod to the east's powerful cattle and soy industries, which fiercely oppose the proposal.

Morales, an Aymara Indian, has allied himself closely with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez in what they call "21st century socialism."

Elected in 2005 on a promise to nationalize Bolivia's natural gas industry, Morales has increased the state's presence throughout the economy and expanded benefits for the poor.

Sharing Chavez's anti-U.S. sentiment, he has also booted Bolivia's U.S. ambassador and Drug Enforcement Administration agents after claiming they had conspired against his government last year. Washington has denied the allegations.

Morales' reforms remain widely popular, winning him 67 percent support in an August recall election. But his biggest project nearly failed in 2006, when an assembly convened to rewrite the constitution broke apart along largely racial lines.

The constitutional dispute has erupted in violence on several occasions.

Three college students were killed in anti-government riots in 2007, and 13 mostly indigenous Morales supporters were killed in a remote jungle clash in September when rioters seized government buildings to prevent a draft constitution from going to a vote.

In an October deal, Congress approved holding the referendum only after Morales agreed to seek one more term instead of two. □

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Orthodox Church leaders to elect new patriarch

By DAVID NOWAK
Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW (AP) - Senior members of the Russian Orthodox Church selected three candidates Sunday to become the church's new patriarch - including the favorite, Metropolitan Kirill of Smolensk and Kaliningrad, who is seen as likely to assert more independence from the Kremlin.

Church leaders chose the three candidates in a secret ballot Sunday in Christ the Savior's Cathedral. A final choice will be made by Thursday before a weekend enthronement.

It will be the first election of a patriarch since the Soviet breakup and it comes as the church is enjoying unprecedented popularity and close ties to the Kremlin.

The new patriarch will replace former Patriarch Alexy II, who died Dec. 5 at the age of 79. He became patriarch in 1990, just before the demise of the officially atheist Soviet Union.

Along with Kirill, the Bishop's Council chose two lesser-known candidates - Metropolitan Kliment of Kaluga and Borovsk and Metropolitan Filaret of Minsk and Slutsk.

Kirill got 97 votes, Kliment 32 and Filaret 16.

Many observers consider Kirill, 62 - the Church's highest-profile official - likely to become the next patriarch.

He opened the proceedings at the vast cathedral next to the Kremlin by calling the assembled bishops to prayer for the memory of Alexy II. And he led the prayer service at Alexy

II's funeral last month in the same cathedral, a ceremony broadcast live on all the main state television networks.

Alexander Ogorodnikov, a religion expert and editor of an Orthodox magazine, said Kirill had a "very good chance" of taking over. He said Kirill has the backing of the church's intellectual elite, and is an active missionary.

The church's relations with the Kremlin are stronger than ever, as shown when President Dmitry Medvedev and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin kissed Alexy II in his coffin during last month's lying-in-state.

Alexy II gave his blessing last year to Medvedev's election as president, praising the social programs Medvedev had implemented as deputy prime minister.



Senior members of the Russian Orthodox Church get ballots to select candidates to replace late Patriarch Alexy II in Moscow's Christ the Savior Cathedral, Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009. The church leaders selected three candidates in a secret ballot Sunday, including the church's interim leader, to replace former Patriarch Alexy II, who died last month. A final choice will be made by Thursday before a weekend enthronement.

Associated Press

But Kirill is unlikely to have a free run to the throne, the analyst said. He may face the strongest challenge from candidates who represent "not a crisis manager, but more of a father, a loving patriarch," Ogorodnikov

said.

Neither Kliment nor Filaret is well-known among Russia's 100 million-strong Orthodox Christians, but both are thought to enjoy strong support among bishops and priests. □




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their staff. Gregory spends most of his time in the kitchen as the head chef repeating the recipes and perfect preparations passed to him from his uncle and three siblings who are renowned for their Mediterranean flair throughout France. Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu, or Profiteroles au Chocolat Chaud. The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...

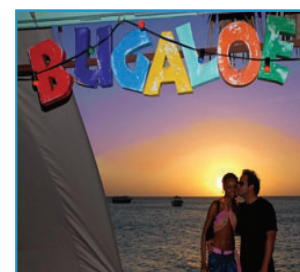
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SAG Awards shape up as crystal ball for Oscars



By DAVID GERMAIN,
AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES—Academy Awards nominations have lined up to make Sunday's Screen Actors Guild honors a real prelude to the Oscars. Just three days before the SAG Awards, the Oscar acting categories came out virtually in sync with the guild picks, with 18 out of 20 performers competing for the same prizes at both

shows.

The lead-acting categories are almost identical for the two ceremonies, with the same people in the running. The only difference: Kate Winslet is nominated as best actress by SAG for "Revolutionary Road," while Oscar voters picked her in that category for her other 2008 drama, "The Reader."

Among other lead-acting

nominees for SAG and the Oscars: Meryl Streep for "Doubt"; Anne Hathaway for "Rachel Getting Married"; Sean Penn for "Milk"; Mickey Rourke for "The Wrestler"; and a Hollywood power couple, Brad Pitt for "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" and Angelina Jolie for "Changeling."

The two supporting categories each have only one difference between the two shows. For supporting actress at SAG, Winslet was nominated for "The Reader," but her slot at the Oscars was taken by Marisa Tomei for "The Wrestler." Dev Patel of "Slumdog Millionaire" had a SAG supporting-actor nomination, but he missed out at the Oscars, Michael Shannon of "Revolutionary Road" grabbing a spot

instead.

The late Heath Ledger loomed large at last year's ceremony, his death coming just five days before the SAG Awards. Actors spoke reverently of him, and Daniel Day-Lewis dedicated his best-actor win for "There Will Be Blood" to Ledger.

This time, Ledger is viewed as a near lock to win the supporting-actor honor for his ferocious reinvention of Batman villain the Joker in "The Dark Knight."

Other SAG supporting-actor contenders include Philip Seymour Hoffman, Amy Adams and Viola Davis for "Doubt"; Robert Downey Jr. for "Tropic Thunder"; Penelope Cruz for "Vicky Cristina Barcelona"; and Josh Brolin for "Milk."

Nominated for overall cast performance are four of

the five best-picture Oscar contenders: "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," "Frost/Nixon," "Milk" and "Slumdog Millionaire." The fifth SAG cast nomination went to "Doubt," while "The Reader" has the fifth Oscar best-picture spot.

While individual categories at SAG are a solid forecast for who might win at the Academy Awards, the overall-cast category has a spotty record at predicting the Oscars.

"No Country for Old Men" won at both SAG and the Oscars last year. But winners in those categories have lined up at both shows just six out of 13 years since SAG added the cast honor.

Airing live on TNT and TBS, the 15th annual SAG Awards will include a lifetime-achievement honor for James Earl Jones. □



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BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

State lawmakers bet gambling can help with budgets

By GREG BLUESTEIN,
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA — A tell-tale sign America's chips are down: States are increasingly turning to gambling to plug budget holes.

Proposals to allow or expand slots or casinos are percolating in at least 14 states, tempting legislators and governors at a time when many must decide between cutting services and raising taxes.

Gambling has hard-core detractors in every state, but when the budget-balancing alternatives lawmakers must consider include reducing education funding or lifting sales taxes, resistance is easier to overcome, political analysts said.

"Who wouldn't be interested if you're a politician who needs to fund programs?" said Bo Bernhard, director of research at the International Gaming Institute at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas — a government-funded program.

While gambling has not been immune from the recession, it has held up relatively well compared with states' other revenue streams, such as income and sales taxes. This helps explain why past industry growth spurts have been preceded by economic

downturns, experts said.

For example, Rhode Island opened the country's first racetrack casino in 1992, and four states soon followed. More recently, states faced with sagging revenues during the 2001 recession joined multistate lotteries such as Powerball and gave more leeway to Native American tribes seeking to expand their casinos.

Analysts say the latest round of gambling initiatives are noteworthy in volume and ambition — a sign that the industry aims to capitalize on states' badly bruised economies.

"From the gambling industry's point of view, this is their big chance," said Earl Grinols, an economics professor at Baylor University who specializes in gambling.

Ohio's casino advocates, including lobbyists working for Penn National Gambling Inc., are pushing a variety of large-scale development projects. In Georgia, a developer working with Dover Downs Inc., wants to transform a blighted section of downtown Atlanta with a 29-story hotel that would attract tourists with more than 5,500 video lottery terminals.

The developer pitching the \$450 million Atlanta project, Dan O'Leary, estimates \$300 million a year in revenues would be funneled to the state, helping to pay for a popular lottery-funded scholarship that provides in-state college tuition for students with "B" averages.

Even Hawaii, which along with Utah is one of two states without a lottery or other form of legalized gambling, may consider a change. Aides to Gov. Linda Lingle, long an opponent of gambling, say she is open to discussing it as a way to close the state's growing budget gap.

Gambling proponents are quick to tout its bells and whistles: a \$54 billion annual industry that employs more than 350,000 people, with most state gambling revenues coming from lotteries, racetracks and betting devices such as slot and video poker machines. Twelve states reap tax money from full-fledged casinos, and 23 others have casinos on Native American reservations, which generally do not pay taxes to states.

But while advocates argue that casinos will help attract jobs and revitalize downtrodden areas, religious groups and other critics fear gambling has a disproportionately negative impact on lower-income people, and does not provide long-term economic growth.

They point to research that shows casinos attract crime, foster gambling addiction problems and divert money from other businesses.

"We've got gambling in 48 states, and you'd think



if it worked, you wouldn't have budget problems or education problems," said Tom Gray, a field director for StopPredatoryGambling.org.

Many of the gambling proposals seek to expand footholds in states that already allow limited gambling.

Kentucky's House speaker had proposed allowing video gambling terminals at the state's racetracks, and legislators in New Hampshire, New York and Texas are seeing proposals this year to allow similar gambling terminals at their tracks. Casino advocates plan to push for casino-style gambling in hurricane-ravaged Galveston, Texas, as well.

Lawmakers in other states are talking about reversing hard-fought crusades to tighten restrictions on gambling.

Nine years after South Carolina lawmakers outlawed video poker, state Sen. Robert Ford is fighting to make it legal again. Since July, lawmakers have cut roughly \$1 billion from the state's budget to address revenue shortfalls.

"Gambling ain't no blight on society," Ford said.

In Ohio, where voters repeatedly have rejected

ballot proposals to expand gambling, Gov. Ted Strickland said he is willing to listen to proposals to help close a \$7 billion shortfall in the next two-year budget.

While analysts have long considered gambling to be almost recession-proof, the economic downturn has seen layoffs, declining revenues and falling stock prices hit casinos.

State-run lotteries are faring better, though: More than half of the states with lotteries have reported rising sales over the past six months.

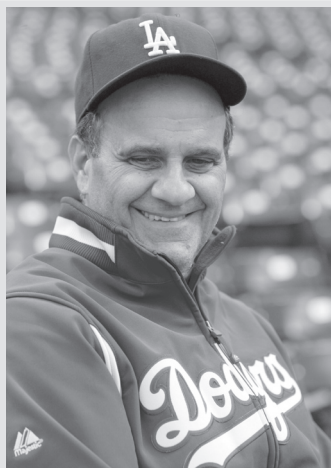
Amid the rush to embrace gambling because of short-term budget problems, some experts say a long-term perspective is needed. After gambling is approved and revenues are allocated, it's not something lawmakers are likely to reconsider down the road — no matter how much economic conditions may improve.

"Once you have legalized a form of gambling, the moral argument draws away and gambling is looked at as a cost-benefit analysis," said I. Nelson Rose, a gambling law professor at Whittier Law School in Orange County, Calif. "So many states have opened those doors now." □



SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



This Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2008 picture shows Los Angeles Dodgers manager Joe Torre as he watches his team's baseball practice in Chicago.

Associated Press

Reports: Torre takes swings at Yankees in new book

NEW YORK — Joe Torre takes some harsh swings at Alex Rodriguez, Brian Cashman and the New York Yankees in a book due out early next month, according to New York newspaper reports.

“The Yankee Years” reveals that Rodriguez was called “A-Fraud” by his teammates and the star slugger developed an obsession with shortstop Derek Jeter, the New York Post and the Daily News reported Sunday.

Torre, who managed the Yankees from 1996-2007 before taking over the Los Angeles Dodgers last season, also says he was betrayed by Cashman, New York's longtime general manager, the Daily News reported on its Web site.

Torre had a hot-and-cold relationship with Yankees ownership, including George Steinbrenner, but Cashman was thought to be a consistent ally. The GM did not immediately return a phone message from The Associated Press.

The book, co-authored by Sports Illustrated's Tom Verducci, is due out Feb. 3 and is being published by Doubleday. □



Pat Perez, right, celebrates with his brother Mike on the 18th hole of the Palmer Private course at PGA West after his 33-under-par win in the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic PGA golf tournament in La Quinta, Calif., Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009.

Associated Press

Pat Perez shoots 69 to win Bob Hope Classic

By KEN PETERS

AP Sports Writer

LA QUINTA, California (AP) - Pat Perez won the Bob Hope Classic for his first PGA Tour title, taking advantage of Steve Stricker's collapse and holding off John Merrick by three strokes Sunday in the wind-swept final round.

Perez finished at 33-under 327.

Merrick, who began the day

eight shots behind Stricker but moved in front briefly on the back nine, shot a 67.

Stricker, 33 under at the start of play after rounds of 61 and 62, had a 77 to tie for third with Mike Weir (67) at 28 under. Stricker had a triple bogey on No. 7 and a quadruple bogey on No. 10, hitting into the water on both holes.

The 32-year-old Perez, playing

in the final group, locked up the victory by knocking his approach shot from 200 yards on No. 18 to 3 feet to set up an eagle. Merrick, winless on the tour, already had finished his round with a par on 18.

Perez beamed and doffed his cap after the ball rolled onto the green and the fans in the grandstands erupted in cheers.

Continued on Page B19

Donohue and Porsche stop Ganassi streak

By MIKE HARRIS

AP Auto Racing Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida (AP) - David Donohue won the Rolex 24 on Sunday to end Chip Ganassi Racing's Daytona winning streak at three races and match his late father's victory here 40 years ago.

Donohue held on for the victory after passing Colombian Juan Pablo Montoya for the lead just 41 minutes from the finish, then held the former IndyCar and Formula One driver for the rest of the race.

Donohue, who started from the pole in the Brumos Porsche Riley on Saturday afternoon, combined with former Indianapolis 500 winner Buddy Rice, Antonio Garcia and Darren Law to win the closest race in the 47-year history

of 24-hour classic at Daytona International Speedway.

Four of the sleek prototypes finished on the lead lap — the most ever — and the quartet spent most of the last two hours nearly nose-to-tail on the 3.6-mile road course.

Donohue's victory came on the 40th anniversary of a win by his late father at Daytona.

“We ran hard the whole time” said Donohue, son of Indy 500 winner Mark Donohue, who died in 1975 after a crash during a Formula One test.

The son was just 8 years old at the time.

“It's a good story line but, to be perfectly honest, he's been gone for quite some time and our guys have done the hard work and putting in the effort to win this race,” Donohue added. □



This Jan. 8, 2009 file photo shows New York Knicks center Eddy Curry yelling on the bench in the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Dallas Mavericks in Dallas.

Associated Press

NY Knicks player's ex-girlfriend killed in Chicago

CHICAGO (AP) - A woman found shot to death in an apartment was a former girlfriend of New York Knicks player Eddy Curry and the mother of his three-year-old son, Curry's attorney said Sunday.

A relative found the bodies of Nova Henry, 24, and her nine-month-old daughter, Ava, in their apartment Saturday evening, Chicago police spokeswoman Monique Bond said. Both died from multiple gunshot wounds, the Cook County medical examiner's office said Sunday.

Curry's son was found unharmed at the scene. Curry is a former player for the Chicago Bulls.

No one had been charged as of Sunday afternoon.

Curry's attorney, Kelly Saindon, said the basketball player's family was devastated by the news. The Knicks issued a statement Sunday on Curry's behalf asking the media to respect the privacy of the two families. “The Curry family is deeply saddened by this tragic loss and will keep the Henry family in their prayers,” the statement said. □

Mosley climbs back on top with win over Margarito

By JOHN NADEL

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) - At age 37, Shane Mosley's better days appeared to be behind him following a narrow loss to Miguel Cotto in November 2007 and an unimpressive victory over Ricardo Mayorga four months ago.

That all changed with his domination of Antonio Margarito.

"Well, I did it again, right here at the Staples Center — the king of Cali," a giddy Mosley said after taking Margarito's WBA welterweight title via a technical knockout at 43 seconds of the ninth round Saturday.

"Everything that we worked on came to pass," Mosley said. "I wasn't really expecting a knockout. It happened."

Did it ever. And in most convincing fashion.

The bout was Mosley's second at Staples Center. He won a 12-round split decision over Oscar De La Hoya on June 17, 2000, in the first boxing match held at the downtown Los Angeles arena to win a version of the world welterweight title for the first of three times. He's also been a champion in the lightweight and junior middleweight divisions.

All things considered, this triumph might have been more impressive.

"It was an amazing performance by Shane," said Richard Schaefer, the CEO of Golden Boy Promotions, which promoted the bout along with Top Rank. "A lot of people counted him out. He turned back the clock."

Margarito was coming off an impressive victory over the previously unbeaten Cotto six months ago to win the WBA welterweight crown and leave the 30-year-old slugger being touted as one of the world's top fighters.

But Mosley dominated the man known as the "Tijuana Tornado" from start to finish, handing him the first knockout of his career.

"I think my speed was too much for him," Mosley said. "I was fast, I have a lot of power in my punches. He's very strong and powerful, he comes



Shane Mosley celebrates after Antonio Margarito's corner threw in the towel in the ninth round of a WBA welterweight title boxing match on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2009 in Los Angeles.

at you. I'm also powerful. People underestimate my strength. (Ricardo) Mayorga, (Fernando) Vargas, these guys are big. I'm able to knock them out. Margarito didn't feel nearly as big."

Mosley said he'd love another shot at Cotto, but would take on all-comers. He also mentioned the possibility of meeting the winner of the Manny Pacquiao-Ricky Hatton fight, scheduled for May 2 in Las Vegas.

A rematch with Margarito would also seem to be a possibility.

"Right now, I'm the man to

beat," Mosley said.

Mosley brought in Nazim Richardson to train him for this fight, replacing his father, Jack. That move couldn't have worked out any better.

"I said before the fight I knew (Margarito) was something special, so we put a special gameplan in," Richardson said. "Shane Mosley's an excellent athlete. Shane Mosley's an excellent student."

Margarito didn't win a single round on one judge's scorecard, one on another and two on the third before the ninth. The Associated Press had Mosley winning every

Associated Press
round but one.

"I feel OK. I was just getting caught over and over," said Margarito, who was taken to a hospital for precautionary reasons.

Margarito started slowly against Cotto last July, but came on to dominate his opponent before stopping him in the 11th round. He got off to another slow start, but Mosley made sure he wouldn't get untracked.

Margarito fans at ringside, perhaps understanding their fighter was in trouble, began

a pleading "Margarito, Margarito" chant as the eighth round began, and the Mexican boxer's corner came to life when he landed his most solid blows of the fight to that point.

But Mosley staggered the champion late in the round, and floored him with a barrage of punches as the round ended. Margarito wobbled to his feet to beat the count to 10, but looked like a beaten man as he sat in his corner.

Mosley continued to force the action in the ninth, and finally Margarito's corner threw in the towel when the fighter was unable to defend himself. Mosley landed 18 power punches and 21 overall to none for Margarito in the final round.

Mosley, who weighed the maximum, raised his record to 46-5 with 39 knockouts. Margarito dropped to 37-6 with 27 knockouts. Mosley landed 178 punches to 108 for Margarito and 118 power punches to Margarito's 78.

Both fighters earned around \$2.4 million. The bout was held before an announced crowd of 20,820 — largest to attend a sporting event at Staples Center since it opened in October 1999.

"It was a great night for me," Mosley said. "Hopefully, there are many, many more." □

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Announcement

Management of W.E.B. Aruba N.V. announces that their offices will be closed for public service on Monday, **26th of January 2009**

Australian Open

Federer, Safina survive; Jankovic out in 4th round



By **JOHN PYE**
AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) - For two sets it looked like Roger Federer's run at a record 14th Grand Slam title was going to be derailed by Tomas Berdych at the Australian Open. Then the 6-foot-5 Czech had a meltdown and Federer swooped, recovering for a 4-6, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 win Sunday - only his fourth career comeback from two sets down - to reach the quarterfinals. "You've got to hang in there,

there's no other solution," Federer said. "He was hitting the ball so heavy and so hard. He pushed me to the limit." Novak Djokovic wasn't pushed until he took a 5-0 lead, then had to work all the way for a 6-1, 7-6 (1), 6-7 (5), 6-2 victory over 2006 runner-up Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus. The atmosphere was more like a football match, with large contingents from Melbourne's Greek and Serbian communities loudly cheering between points in the match that finished at

2:26 a.m.

"It's never easy to play the second week of a Grand Slam, especially against a great player like Marcos," Djokovic said. "It wasn't easy, we had to wait (to start) for a couple of hours. But I'm happy I got through in four sets."

Baghdatis holds the record for the latest finishing match at the Australian Open, his five-set, third-round loss to Lleyton Hewitt last year finishing at 4:34 a.m.

"My objective was to make it to the second week - I made it by about three hours," Baghdatis said.

Djokovic's fellow Serb, women's No. 1-ranked Jelena Jankovic, lost in the fourth round, going down in straight sets to 2007 Wimbledon finalist Marion Bartoli in the day's first match on Rod Laver Arena. And No. 3 Dinara Safina had a narrow escape, saving match points before fending off another French player, Alize Cornet, in three.

A major upset result loomed in the late afternoon when 20th-seeded Berdych was on top for the first two sets,

working Federer around with powerful forehands to keep the Swiss star on the defensive. He made almost half of his 58 winners in the first two sets and consistently targeted Federer's backhand with his powerful, kicking serve.

But Federer started finding his range. He got the deciding break in the third set when Berdych, visibly tightening, dropped a 40-0 lead and made unforced errors on three open court volleys.

"I remember I was against the wind and to get the break then was crucial," Federer said. "Anyway, I came back and I guess that really gave me momentum."

In the fourth set, Berdych recovered from double break point to deuce, and Federer got another break point on a close line call. Berdych wanted to challenge, but no replay was available due to a technical glitch, so the call stood. Berdych argued with the chair umpire to no avail with the crowd breaking out in jeers, then netted a forehand to fall behind for the only break of the set. Federer led 4-0 in the fifth

but, serving at 5-2, nervously squandered double match point then double-faulted to give Berdych a break chance.

He forced deuce, fired back-to-back aces - the last was No. 20 for the match - then leapt in the air with a big "Yes!"

"I enjoy those kind of fights. It doesn't happen all the time," said Federer. "I hope it's a good omen."

Federer has won 13 Grand Slam singles titles, one short of Pete Sampras' all-time record of 14. He next plays No. 8 Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina, who advanced 5-7, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 over No. 19 Marin Cilic of Croatia.

The last time Federer rallied from 0-2 to win in five was against Rafael Nadal at Miami in 2005.

Federer, who held the No. 1 ranking for 237 consecutive weeks until losing it to Nadal last August, rarely has needed to come back from two sets.

He's done it twice in majors, against Armenia's Sargis Sargsian in the second round at the 2001 French Open and Dutchman Peter Wessels at the 2000 U.S. Open.

Federer beat Berdych in the corresponding round here last year - after he'd been pushed to 10-8 in the fifth set against Serbia's Janko Tipsarevic. He lost to Djokovic in the semifinals.

Djokovic meets No. 7 Andy Roddick in the quarters after the American ousted No. 21 Tommy Robredo 7-5, 6-1, 6-3. Safina, who was down 5-3 and 40-15 with Cornet serving for the match, rallied to win 6-2, 2-6, 7-5 to reach the Australian Open quarterfinals for the first time.

"I am so lucky that I'm in the quarterfinals, she was one point away," said Safina, who had eight double faults and 52 unforced errors.

She'll next play 187th-ranked Jelena Dokic, a 2000 Wimbledon semifinalist with a career-high No. 4 ranking who is in her first Grand Slam event in three years. The local favorite beat Alisa Kleybanova 7-5, 5-7, 8-6. Kleybanova upset 2008 runner-up Ana Ivanovic in the previous round.

Bartoli was the aggressor in a 6-1, 6-4 win over Jankovic that wasn't entirely unexpected. □

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Continued from Page B16

He stopped grinning only briefly, while he was bending over his final putt.

Merrick's second-place finish was the highest for the 26-year-old former UCLA star, who is beginning his third full season on the tour.

Perez, who led the first three days of the 90-hole event before falling three shots off Stricker's pace, had said the ideal conditions made the early rounds "like playing in a dome."

That changed for the closing round over the Palmer Course at PGA West.

Club selection, figuring distance and direction, all became a challenge. The wind would quiet one moment, then gust and swirl the next. Flagsticks on the greens rocked back and forth with the flags flapping, go still, then just as suddenly begin shuddering again.

Stricker, at No. 16 the highest ranked player in the field, had his hopes of winning a fifth tour title blown away in the wind.

After hitting into the water and taking a triple bogey to

lose the lead on the seventh hole, he found water again on No. 10, but only after hitting out of bounds. His quadruple bogey there dropped him back into the pack.

Stricker, who had the PGA Tour-record stretch of 61-62 the previous two days, birdied No. 6 to go to 34 under and open a three-stroke lead over Perez.

Stricker's troubles then began when his tee shot on the par-4, 434-yard seventh sailed to the right and plopped into the lake along the fairway. His fourth shot on the hole carried far over the green and into the rough, he left his next shot 32 feet from the pin, lagged within a foot and tapped it in for a 7.

Then came the disaster on the par-4, 433-yard 10th hole, when he hit one tee shot out of bounds and another into the water before teeing off for the third time - already his fifth shot. That went into a fairway bunker. It could have been worse; Stricker two-putted from 60 feet to salvage an 8.

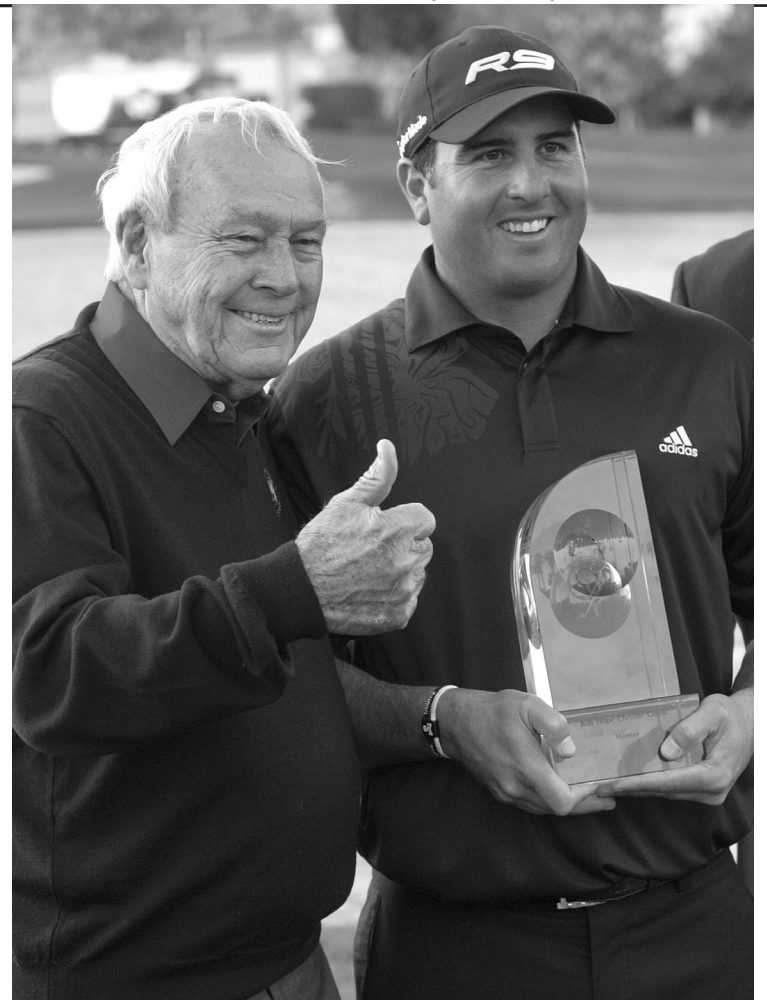
Joe Durant's tour record for 90 holes, 36-under 324 in the 2001 Hope, seemed in peril as records fell in the early

rounds. Then the wind, often a factor in the Hope over the years, finally kicked up on the final day.

Perez earned \$918,000, while Stricker took home \$295,800. Stricker was 33 under after four rounds, bettering the tour's 72-hole record of 31 under set by Ernie Els in his victory at the 2003 Mercedes Classic. Stricker's 61-62 was a low for consecutive rounds; Mark Calcavecchia set the record by shooting 60-64 in the 2001 Phoenix Open, and Perez tied it with his 61-63 start in the Hope. □

Pat Perez, right, holds his trophy as tournament host, Arnold Palmer, gives the thumbs up after Perez won the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic PGA golf tournament Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009 in La Quinta, Calif. Perez shot 33-under-par for the win.

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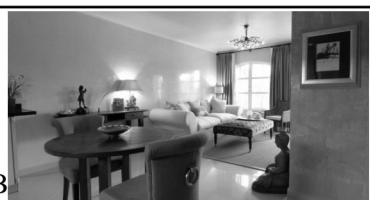
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Según sondeos a boca de urna de canales de televisión privados

Bolivianos aprobaron Constitución socialista

LA PAZ (Reuters) - Los bolivianos aprobaron el domingo en un referendo una nueva Constitución impulsada por el presidente Evo Morales que abre las puertas del poder a la mayoría indígena y da al Estado el control total sobre la economía, según proyecciones no oficiales.

Dos sondeos a boca de urna de canales de televisión privados dieron al "Sí" a la nueva carta magna entre un 60 y un 61 por ciento de los sufragios, en tanto que un conteo rápido de otra cadena mostró una victoria de la propuesta del Gobierno con casi un 55 por ciento.

Esta es la segunda reforma constitucional de corte socialista en ver la luz en América Latina en los últimos cuatro meses tras la nueva carta magna en Ecuador, profundizando el giro de la región hacia la izquierda.

Analistas esperaban la victoria de Morales debido a su popularidad entre los aborígenes de las tierras altas del occidente, que aunque representan dos tercios de la población boliviana de 10 millones de habitantes, han sido relegados durante décadas de la vida política.

"Felizmente en Bolivia ya son los pueblos que

deciden, aprueban o rechazan propuestas y normas, y eso se va a profundizar en el futuro", dijo Morales tras votar en la Villa 14 de septiembre, en la región central del Chapare, desde donde comenzó su carrera sindical como líder cocalero.

La nueva carta magna boliviana es fuertemente resistida por los departamentos de la llanura oriental del país, dominados por descendientes de europeos y desde donde la oposición derechista intentó evitar el año pasado la convocatoria al referendo con una ola de protestas que dejaron varios muertos.

La nueva Constitución boliviana, que permite a Morales presentarse por única vez a su reelección en unos comicios adelantados que podrían ser convocados en diciembre, establece que las 36 etnias indígenas que conforman Bolivia deben estar representadas en los poderes Legislativo y Judicial.

Además profundiza una reforma agraria al prohibir los latifundios y establece que el Estado ejercerá la planificación de la economía y la administración de los recursos naturales y podrá intervenir en toda la cadena

productiva.

RESISTENCIA OPOSITORA
La oposición, dispersa entre partidos de centro y centroderecha, asegura que la nueva carta magna crearía un Estado totalitario y ahuyentaría las inversiones que el país más pobre de Sudamérica necesita con urgencia.

Además acusa a Morales, un indígena aymara de 49 años, de querer instaurar un régimen centralista animado por su mayor aliado, el presidente venezolano Hugo Chávez.

"Sé que hay cosas buenas en la nueva Constitución. Pero, yo voto 'No' para no darle un poder ilimitado a la que dice ser la mayoría", dijo Gigi Pinar, un ama de casa de 43 años en una escuela de un barrio residencial de La Paz.

Aunque dirigentes opositores sugirieron que podría haber fraude, observadores extranjeros afirmaron en un comunicado a media mañana que hasta ese momento no habían encontrado irregularidades en el proceso electoral.

Según las proyecciones de las cadenas de televisión, los bolivianos también decidieron en el referendo limitar a 5.000 hectáreas la superficie máxima de las propiedades agrícolas.

"Esa (por la nueva Constitución) es la única forma de que cambie nuestro país, empezando porque se respete a la mayoría, y así tendremos un país con más justicia", afirmó Pánfilo Choque, un artesano

de 37 años, en un colegio en uno de los barrios de clase baja en La Paz.

Se espera que se den a conocer los primeros datos oficiales del escrutinio en las próximas horas. □

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